A

HERO OF SALAMANCA;

OR,

THE NOVICE ISABEL.

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A NOVEL,

IN THREE VOLUMES.

BY H. M. MORIARTY,

AUTHOR OF "BRIGHTON IN AN UPROAR,"

&c. &c. &c.

"What am I! how produced! and for what end?
Whence drew I being! to what period tend?
Am I the blind offspring of blind chance?"

VOL. I.

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1813.

A

HERO OF SALAMANCA,

&c. &c.

CHAPTER I.

If the fair star of fortune smile,
Let not its flatt'ring power beguile;
Nor, borne along the fav'ring tide,
My full sails swell with bloating pride.
Let me from wealth but hope content,
Rememb'ring still it was but lent;
To modest merit spread my store,
Unbar my hospitable door;
Nor feed, for pomp, an idle train,
While want unpitied pines in vain.

"Rosa, my dear girl, do you not hear a dreadful noise? Some accident, I fear, has happened, for the dog barks, and a groan still vibrates on my ear. I have rung re-

peatedly, but no one answers the bell; they surely are all dead asleep."

"I have been listening for some time," replied Rosa, "and, assuredly, the moans become fainter. It is still dark, but I will arise, and endeavour to afford some assistance to the sufferers; but here is Martha, and she will accompany me."

"Indeed, Miss, it is dangerous to open the house; it is now but two o'clock, and I dare say the dog is only barking at some smugglers; John does not sleep here to-night, and they tell me that the huffers, as they call them, are a very dangerous set of people!"

"And would you," said Rosa, "allow an unfortunate being to continue in anguish, because you are afraid of smugglers? If so, remain where you are, and I will go alone to the place. Hark! do you not again hear a moan?"

Rosa almost flew down the stairs, and in a few minutes was at the spot from whence the noise proceeded, but the darkness of the morning prevented her discerning objects; she called, but all was silent, and Rosa was at a loss what to conjecture, when Martha approached with a lantern; and discovered Neptune guarding a bundle. Rosa endeavoured to disengage the dirty load from the dog, when her astonishment surpassed all description, on perceiving that a child had been the object of her search. As soon as she took hold of it, the poor creature began moaning most piteously. She carried it to Mrs. Mandeville's bed-side, who was delighted that they had afforded shelter to such a helpless object of commiseration; for she possessed a heart which over-

flowed with the milk of human kindness: but the miserable being whom they had found, was not only dreadfully bruised, but had two fractures, as an arm and one leg were broken, so that they apprehended that all their exertions would prove ineffectual to preserve the life of the little foundling. As they resided three miles from a surgeon, they were compelled reluctantly to defer, till day break, sending for one to Deal; but Rosa washed the little boy, fed him, and placed his broken and lacerated limbs in as easy a posture as she could, and the urchin from fatigue soon fell asleep. Mrs. Mandeville had medical aid, and she also took every method she could devise to discover to whom the child belonged, but all her efforts proved ineffectual. The tattered and shabby habiliments

in which he was discovered, gave no favourable opinion of his parentage; from his size they judged him to be about eighteen months old; he was rather a comely than a pretty child, but he was so disfigured by bruises that it was scarcely possible to form any opinion of his beauty. Rosa insisted on attending on him; her benevolent heart prompted her to this act of charity, as she was fearful that a less gentle nurse would not pay such attention to him as his deplorable state required.

Mrs. Mandeville was herself such an invalid, that she seldom left the house, but to take an airing, or a warm sea bath; on these occasions Rosa always accompanied her, otherwise she devoted her time to the little protegée, to whom she be-

came so attached, that she never considered the nursing him any trouble or confinement.

Mrs. Mandeville and Miss Rivers had been only a few months in Kent, when this remarkable occurrence happened; they came there for the benefit of the sea air, they only brought one servant with them, as Captain Darcy, an old friend of theirs, had taken a small cottage for the ladies, and his man cleaned knives, waited at table, and generally slept in the house; therefore they did not incumber themselves by more attendants. Miss Rivers was in her seventeenth year, she was exactly the figure and countenance you would represent the Goddess Hebe; her disposition was all gentleness and affection, and she added to these attractions every

feminine and elegant accomplishment. It may be naturally supposed that, in a country town, such beauty could not pass unnoticed, and as Captain Darcy took delight in plaguing the impertinent gossips‘ he would never satisfy them respecting the birth, parentage, and education, of Mrs. Manderville and Rosa, consequently they became a subject for tea-table talk, and the female scandalizers, who are a pest to society, made very free with the character of Miss Rivers.

Mrs. Read observed, " It was absolutely a folly, supposing that persons had not common sense, to think that they could be so imposed on as to believe the story which had been vampt up, respecting the child being found by a dog; for had that been the case, was it likely that Mrs. Man-

deville, who, from her establishment, could not have any great income, would adopt a foundling; or would the delicate and beautiful Miss Rivers, make such a fuss about a baby, that she knew nothing of?"

"Indeed!" answered Miss Becky Nondescript, "has Mrs. Mandeville then really adopted the boy? I understood that Mr. Read had offered to place him in the workhouse, and that as soon as he could be removed, he was to be sent there."

"You are perfectly correct in your statement, Miss Becky; Mrs. Mandeville declined my cousin's offer, and yesterday he christened the child Albert Mandeville. Captain Darcy was one of the god-fathers, who the other was I don't know; but Miss Rivers was the god-mother, and the brat was dressed as fine, as if he really

was a gentleman's son. You must allow that all this is very extraordinary. I have resided here ever since I was born, and I never heard of such strange doings before."

"General Nondescript desired me on no account to visit Mrs. Mandeville, for he dislikes all suspicious characters; indeed, my brother is very circumspect regarding the persons with whom I associate, and by the account I hear of Miss Rivers she is quite a strange inanimate being; it seems that neither she nor Mrs. Mandeville ever play at cards; and Mrs. Trifle told me that she passed one evening in their company, and that they have no conversation, as they are as totally unacquainted with the history of all their neighbours, as if such persons did not exist."

"My cousin is so fond of them that he

will not hear a word to their disadvantage; but, poor soul! he is just what clergymen were in former times. Mrs. Mandeville is a martyr to the rheumatic gout, and is come here on that account. The child is certainly very like Miss Rivers!"

All this illiberal dialogue took place in the circulating library, which, in a country town, is the rendezvous of all the lady and gentlemen loungers in the vicinity; and at this period it was more than usually crowded. It was a serene evening, and Rosa had been induced to extend her walk; the rays of the setting sun gave an additional glow to the landscape, and inspired the most calm ideas; the warbling of the birds, and the fragrance of the flowers, diffused their sweets around. Night advanced, and she hastened herpace,

fearful that Albert might suffer from the damp; but being fatigued, she lent against a gate, when she perceived the party approach, who had been so liberal in their opinions of her; but as Rosa was purity itself, she was incapable of supposing it possible that any wrong construction could be put on her humanity to the little foundling; consequently, she did not retire from her situation, but she was greatly abashed by the men staring with great effrontery in her face; the women nodded, whispered, and winked, and passed without taking any notice of her, excepting Miss Becky Nondescript, who observed, that the boy resembled her as much as if he were her own child. Although she felt distressed at the rude behaviour with which she had been treated, she could not

refrain from laughing at this remark, as Albert had black hair and eyes, with a dark complexion, and she was extremely fair; but as she repeatedly met with the same insulting behaviour when she went out, it really made her unhappy; however, she carefully concealed it from Mrs. Mandeville, as she knew that she would immediately leave the cottage, and Rosa saw with great delight, that the sea air had the most beneficial effect on the health of her beloved friend, consequently, on no account would she accelerate her removal. Captain Darcy was absent, or she would have unbosomed her little grief to him; she ventured to hint to Dr. Wright, the physician, who attended Mrs. Mandeville, that she thought the manners of the inhabitants of a sea-port were very

different to what she had been accustomed to meet with. He assured her, that she was not singular in her observation, for that in general such towns were composed of disappointed old maids, fretful old bachelors, and *would be* gentlemen and ladies, whose only amusement was scandalizing those whose beauty or accomplishments rendered them objects of admiration. In fact, he said, he never mixed with what he termed the town's people, as excepting scandal, they had not an idea beyond making gooseberry wine, and salting hogs.

Before the winter advanced, Mrs. Mandeville was strongly recommended to remove into a warmer air, as her delicate constitution would find the cottage too cold for a longer residence; but as she proposed remaining the following summer by the sea, she determined only to

take up her residence for the present in a neighbouring town; as she had passed, at an early period of her life, much of her time in Kent, and she anticipated much satisfaction in renewing her acquaintance with some of the friends of her youth. Albert was perfectly recovered from his fractures and bruises; he began to prattle, but they could gain no intelligence respecting to whom he belonged; and to say the truth, the child had so powerfully interested the feelings of his protectress, and Rosa, that they dreaded being compelled to part from him. Mr. Read again offered to place him in the work-house, but Mrs. Mandeville replied, with some asperity, that she was not so poor, but that she could afford to keep the foundling. At the same time, she considered it her duty to place in Mr. Read's hands, the

clothes in which they found him, with a circumstantial account of the manner in which he was discovered, with Mrs. Mandeville's address, that should his parents enquire for him, they might have an opportunity of again pressing to their bosom, the child whom they had so inhumanly exposed to wretchedness and want.

In a few months, Mrs. Mandeville found herself so much recovered, that she was able to mix in society, and she was prevailed on to accept of some tickets for a ball, given by a club in the town in which she then lodged; and as Miss Rivers would not go without her friend, she consented to accompany her, although she was adverse to introducing Rosa to such a motley group as she knew would compose the dance; but as Captain Darcy was

a subscriber, she could not assign that reason for declining the invitation, without hurting his feelings. An elegant dress was ordered for Rosa, and some friends from London promised to attend them to the ball. The gentlemen who formed the club, were of all descriptions; the leading person was General Nondescript. Some people really thought this was a nick-name, as they could not find out that he had ever had any command in the army; and what was still more extraordinary, that he was frequently commanded by the Colonel of a militia regiment. However, General Nondescript was a very great man in his own opinion, and he had certainly been a very fortunate one, as when he entered the service, he could scarcely read, and had never been taught to write; the com-

manding officer being a great friend of his father's, procured leave of absence for Jerry Nondescript, and he was placed at school, and, as a peace soon took place, he remained there some time, where he really made good use of his time; but he returned to his corps conceited, and extremely vain of the little knowledge which he had acquired. He devoted much of his leisure to gambling, and suffered considerable inconvenience from this pernicious propensity. His father was an officer, and for many years passed his life with unblemished honour; but in hopes of adding to the comforts of his family, he obtained permission for his daughters to supply the recruits with slops. Miss Becky Nondescript, wishing to make a rapid fortune, cut the shirts so small, and

the materials were of such an inferior quality, that a complaint was made to the commanding officer, and these disgraceful peculations compelled her father to retire from the service. She now resided with her brother, who was a penurious, starved-looking old bachelor, and, as they lived in a county town, she was the leading person of the scandalous faction — and being a neglected, illiterate, stiff maiden, she was inveterate against all those who had the crime of possessing youth and beauty. Miss Rivers had particularly excited her vengeance, as she overheard Rosa laughing at the curious figure General Nondescript made on horseback, with his knees nearly touching his nose, and his toes turned out, as if he were practising the first position in dancing; Rosa

compared him to the tailor riding to Brentford. No sooner did Miss Becky hear that Miss Rivers was invited to the club ball, than she attacked her brother on the impropriety of her being admitted, as she had no doubt but Albert was Rosa's child, and that Darcy was the father. The General was soon convinced that such a character should not step on the same boards with his virtuous sister, and, after various consultations on this important subject, he requested Miss Becky to send for Captain Owen Ap-Strap, and state the case to him, as he was one of the committee for regulating the ball, and of course would attend to her wishes; but a great difficulty arose, how she could accomplish this—the very idea of hinting to one of the male creation, her suspicion

of Rosa, was the height of indelicacy—a virgin should not have even an improper thought, much less let such indelicacy pass her lips,—and then to have any private conversation with a man, then, indeed, the world might be censorious. The General obviated these difficulties by promising to remain in the adjoining apartment, and leave the door open; she wanted him to stay in the room, but he would not consent to her request, as he said it might then be conjectured, that he had something to do in the expulsion of Miss Rivers, and, as Mrs. Mandeville, he understood, had powerful friends, he did not like to lay himself open to them. Accordingly, Miss Becky invited Captain Owen Ap-Strap to tea and supper, when

an opportunity was given for her to sound him on the accomplishment of her wish.

"I understand, Captain Owen Ap-Strap, that we are to have a very full ball; they tell me that you are the principal engineer on this occasion, that we are indebted to you for all the excellent regulations, beautiful decorations, &c. &c. I am convinced, therefore, that the company will be very select"—she blushed, hum'd, and haw'd—"of course, only *immaculates* will gain admittance."

Captain Owen Ap-Strap did not quite comprehend to what Miss Becky alluded. He told her that every subscriber had such a number of tickets, which they disposed of as they thought proper, and if they required more, that they paid for them.

"But, surely, Sir," replied Miss Becky

Nondescript, "you have taken precaution that no improper characters may mix with us; for, as several young men belong to the club, I am very apprehensive that they may bring those who are not immaculates, a description of persons whom I should be extremely sorry to be seen with; I must confess that I have my reasons for making this representation to you."

"I feel the full force, madam, of the propriety of your conduct; indeed, every person who has the honour of knowing Miss Nondescript, must profit from her superior judgment and sound reasoning. All the fashionables within twenty miles are invited to our ball. Mr. Diaper, the rich linen draper, has promised that his daughters shall come; Mr. Snip will bring his niece; and I flatter myself, we shall suc-

ceed at last in prevailing on Miss Wick to appear amongst us; her father has leave to change his name to that of Spermaceti, as he has obtained a contract which will enable him to give Miss Wick sixty thousand pounds. Report says, that she is partial to our friend Captain Carter, but the father does not know it, as he is in hopes that he shall get a lord for her husband. But to enumerate all to whom tickets are sent, is totally impossible: but, of course, you know that we are to have the beauty — Miss Rivers — and Mrs. Mandeville brings several friends with her."

"Indeed! and pray who is this accomplished girl, who appears to turn all the men's heads? and who, pray, is the little boy, to whom she devotes all her time and attention? I happened to be at Deal

when the report was circulated of her finding the child: but, alas! with all Captain Darcy's address, the people could not swallow the curious tale."

"Upon my honour, you really surprize me. Is it then possible, that there can be any mystery about Miss Rivers? She certainly is very beautiful, yet she has a hauteur in her manners, which is extremely repulsive? Although I have been repeatedly in her company, and several times introduced to her, still she conducts herself to me as if I was a stranger. All this may proceed from Captain Darcy, who, you know, is my commanding officer, and, for some time, we have not been on the most friendly terms. Rest assured that I will make it my business

to enquire minutely into the particulars of this affair, and act accordingly."

"You will recollect, Captain Owen Ap-Strap, that my name must not appear in this transaction, or my brother's; at the same time, General Nondescript will lend you every assistance to render the ball respectable and select."

Their conversation was now interrupted by the entrance of company, and Miss Beckey was so pleased that Captain Owen Ap-Strap had so fully entered into her feelings respecting Miss Rivers's expulsion, that her visitants experienced from her such civility as astonished them. She concluded, that Captain Owen Ap-Strap interested himself in the business from his great regard for her, never dreaming that his contracted mind made him re-

joice in an opportunity of revenging himself on Darcy, who had several times been under the necessity of reprimanding him for neglecting his duty,—and the innocent unoffending Rosa was to prove the victim of his malice.

As it is probable that the readers of this work may be desirous of knowing the origin of Captain Owen Ap-Strap, no doubt it will amuse them to hear, that this mighty hero's father was a pedlar, and in his excursion round the country to dispose of the various articles in which he dealt, halted at a town in Wales, where he took up his residence at an ale-house, much frequented by trampers, to pass away the time which was not devoted to business. He smoked his pipe in the kitchen, to which place he became ex-

tremely attached, as Dolly, the publican's daughter, was a buxom lass, and shewed a decided preference to the pedlar; and as he was of an amorous disposition, he lengthened his residence in Wales, to enjoy her society; but Dolly Ap-Shenkin, finding that their mutual attachment could not much longer be concealed, used all her eloquence to prevail on her lover to make her an honest woman;—but, as he had, unfortunately, already a wife, he was compelled to forego so great a blessing. Ap-Shenkin suspected that too great an intimacy existed between his darling and the pedlar,—a full explanation took place, and the guest, to compromise the business, paid a sum he could very ill afford, and decamped from the town, with a firm determination of never entering it again.

It so happened, that about this period, Sir Evan Apprece's eldest son had returned from the University; he also had been vulnerable to Dolly's charms, and, as he could better provide for a child than the pedlar, Ap-Shenkin went to him like a distracted man, accused him of having ruined his girl, and for ever blasted the reputation of his house; and so terrified the young Esquire for fear his father should be made acquainted with his conduct, that he begged and intreated that the strictest secrecy might be observed, and that he would amply provide for Dolly and all her relations, requesting that Ap-Shenkin would consider what would be the best method to put this benevolent intention into immediate execution. Accordingly, in a few days, he returned to

young Apprece, to inform him, that a young man by the name of Strap, who had long been fond of Dolly, consented to marry her, and father the child, if he would set them up in business, as he was by trade a shoemaker; this reasonable demand was acceded to, and Dolly was led to the altar by Mr. Ap-Strap. As soon as Owen Ap-Strap made his appearance in this world, Ap-Shenkin bore the joyful tidings to the Squire, who settled a sum to be paid annually for his maintenance. At a proper age he was sent to a free school, from whence Mr. Apprece placed him in a sort of military corps; he was not in his appearance remarkable, in his temper he was cunning and revengeful; to his inferiors he was oppressive, to his superiors, cringing, and ready to exe-

cute any dirty job, if by so doing he could ingratiate himself with them.

At length, the long expected day arrived, when all the beauty, fashion, and riches of the neighbourhood, were to grace the club ball. Mrs. Mandeville was in the act of receiving those friends who were to be of her party, when the following elegant and delicate note, or letter, was put into her hand:—

"Mrs. Mandeville, Madam,

"At a committee held this day, for regulating the club ball, it was decided by the said respectable committee, that Miss Rosa Rivers is not eligible to be admitted into that select meeting, as the story propagated at Deal, respecting the boy, Albert Mandeville, being found by her, is not believed,

and it is supposed that she is the mother of that child, and that Captain Darcy is the father.

"JERRY NONDESCRIPT."

Mrs. Mandeville read, and re-perused this curious epistle; her astonishment rendered her incapable of knowing how to act; she took Darcy aside, and communicated the dreadful intelligence to him; his anger and affliction was such, that Mrs. Mandeville repented of having informed him of the event: but Darcy was a man who had been inured to vexations and misery, and he had such command over his passions, that in a few minutes he requested that this affair might have as little publicity as possible;—to accomplish this, however painful to her feelings, that she and her party must make there

entrée at the ball, and that she must frame some plausible excuse to detain Rosa from it. Mrs. Mandeville saw the propriety of this advice, and she represented to Miss Rivers that she was under the necessity of returning with her friends to town the next morning, which compelled her to disappoint her of her dance, as she was incapable thereby of preparing for the journey; therefore, must request that Rosa would see every thing packed up, and in readiness for their departure. The tears which accompanied this speech grieved and surprised Miss Rivers; she assured her friend that she would with great pleasure attend to her wishes, and immediately commenced her employment with her usual cheerfulness.

Rosa was not one of those frivolous

characters that the disappointment of a dance could seriously afflict; yet at her age it was natural that she should like a ball, and she had anticipated great pleasure on the present occasion, as she was to dance with Captain Darcy. However, she had sufficient resolution to conceal the regret which she felt till after the party had left the house, when she could not refrain from bursting into tears; and, regretting that she was an orphan, her mind revolved on her past joys, the days when she was idolized by her father; she had now only to look forward through life to a long walk, most probable of misery and desolation. In tears she was born—in agony die—the intermediate space of her existence, could only be productive of momentary happiness, for she should pro-

bably for ever be separated from her beloved uncle, and her dear Mrs. Mandeville; Albert even, she should be deprived of. These reflections accounted for the melancholy and depression which she felt. It was late before she roused from this desponding state, when to quiet her agitated feelings, and recover such composure as would enable her to meet Mrs. Mandeville with apparent cheerfulness, she indulged herself in reading till the party returned; but her swollen eyes convinced her friends that she had passed her time in weeping. Captain Darcy endeavoured to enliven her by the ludicrous description which he gave of the ball. Mrs. Mandeville assured her that there were sufficient bugles and tinsel to supply all the strolling comedians in Europe, and ex-

pressed her admiration at the great ingenuity which the young ladies had displayed in their dresses, which really looked very fine and showy at a trifling expense, as their coloured muslins and calicoes were excellent substitutes for crape and sarsnet; but Rosa evidently saw that her friend's spirits were as little in unison with vivacity as her own. She fancied that Darcy looked at her with a settled dejection; that when he addressed her, his voice seemed scarcely articulate from his suppressed feelings, and Miss Rivers was convinced that something of an extraordinary nature had induced her friend to leave Kent so precipitately. She communicated these sentiments to Mrs. Mandeville, expressed her apprehension, from Darcy's manner, that he had heard some fatal

news of her brother William, as the expression of his countenance, when he addressed her, had excited her fears respecting the safety of that beloved relative; and she intreated that she alone might not remain in ignorance on a subject in which she was so deeply interested. "My dearest Rosa," said Mrs. Mandeville, "the period is now arrived, when you must go to India, and Darcy, of course, sensibly feels regret at parting from the sister of his beloved friend; but I am convinced that you will with cheerfulness submit to your destiny, recollecting, that it was the wish of your father on his death bed, when you solemnly gave your word to fulfil this his last request." Miss Rivers was incapable of making any answer; she threw herself into Mrs. Mandeville's arms,

and for a considerable time remained insensible to all the pleasures and miseries of this at best miserable life.

Rosa had long dreaded this detested voyage, and had flattered herself that some fortunate event would occur to prevent it; it was true she was to go to the daughter of Mrs. Mandeville, who was settled there; but she was almost a stranger to her, as she was very young when Miss Mandeville left England; added to which, it was repugnant to her ideas of delicacy, to be sent to market, and what was still more distressing to her affectionate heart, was leaving those friends who had from her infancy supplied to her the loss of her lamented mother, with whom she would have been delighted to pass her life even in the greatest obscurity.

Sleep did not visit her agitated mind, and the morning found her—listless and weary; but as she was aware that Mrs. Mandeville was an equal sufferer with herself, she exerted the good sense she possessed, and appeared, if not cheerful, at least not depressed. Her friend was delighted to see the command she had obtained over herself, and they reached town, without conversing on a subject which could only renew their grief. The first thing Mrs. Mandeville did was to consult some eminent persons in the law, respecting the notice which had been sent her by General Nondescript, as she was determined to spare no expence to punish the poltroons who had so basely and wantonly endeavoured to ruin Rosa, to gratify private pique; but as the note was written

in the name of the committee, her appeal to them must be in general, and if they did not then make an apology, she was advised to apply to the ecclesiastical court for redress; but the gentlemen recommended Mrs. Mandeville to obtain a refutation of the iniquitous report from the committee, as other proceedings would be attended with enormous expenses. Accordingly, she wrote to General Nondescript and the committee, to insist upon their investigating the truth of the report which they dared to circulate, when she received this answer.

"*Club Committee Room,*
March 18—

"MADAM,

"The gentlemen who formed the committee for regulating the club ball, request

me to inform you, that they have investigated the report submitted to their attention, and are fully sensible of the strict propriety and humanity of Miss Rosa River's conduct on all occasions, and are extremely sorry that they should have prevented her attending the club ball; as they are convinced of the falsehood of the representation which induced them to do so. I have the honour to remain,

"Madam,

"Your most obedient,

"Humble servant,

"EDMUND DARCY."

This letter was a poor consolation to Mrs. Mandeville, for what she had, and still did feel from the reports circulated about Rosa, for she knew the world. She and Captain Darcy had reflected on the

fatal note sent by the committee ; and, lthough the greater part of the persons who composed it were despicable characters—upstarts—who had risen not by any merit of their's, but through the caprice of the blind deity ; yet these reptiles had stigmatized the spotless fame of the innocent Rosa, and probably might prevent her forming such a connection in England, as from her family, beauty, and accomplishments, she had a right to expect ; and as it really was the wish of Sir Eugene Rivers that she should go to India, the recent occurrence made it desirable that she should depart by the first ships. Rosa was kept in total ignorance of every circumstance regarding the club ball, as her refined sense of virtue would have received such a wound by the informa-

tion, as would probably have terminated her existence. Captain Darcy had not been idle; he had fathomed that the whole of the business originated with Captain Owen Ap-Strap—whom he challenged—but that gentleman said he only acted as one of the committee, that he never had believed the report, and was willing to make any apology which Darcy required. The gentleman who delivered the challenge, thought that Captain Owen Ap-Strap could do no more, and that he considered him such an abject wretch, that it was beneath an officer to meet him, unless with a horse whip. Captain Darcy was anxious that the business should be settled before William Rivers returned to England, as he knew that his brave friend would challenge the whole of the com-

mittee, if he was made acquainted with their illiberal and despicable conduct towards his niece; and as the apology they had made, must convince all who were acquainted with the proceeding of their disgraceful behaviour, it was better to let the subject drop. General and Miss Beckey Nondescript looked more silly than usual, for Captain Owen Ap-Strap was so frightened when Darcy challenged him, that he divulged by whom he was instigated.

Captain Darcy joined his friends in London, and as the India fleet was soon to sail, much of their time was dedicated topurchasing the necessary articles for such a voyage; but every hour made Rosa more averse to leaving Mrs. Mandeville: where should she meet with such another friend?

Friendship! thou soft propitious pow'r!
Sweet regent of the social hour!
Sublime thy joys, nor understood
But by the virtuous and the good!
Thou art the same through change of times,
Thro' frozen zones and burning climes;
From the equator to the pole,
The same kind angel through the whole.

Captain Darcy was acquainted with a Mr. and Mrs. Hawkes, who were returning to Bombay; this reconciled Miss Rivers rather more to her fate, for on such an occasion the protection of a female companion was most desirable. Mrs. Mandeville bore the parting better than Rosa; she had long been accustomed to disappointments; she had found many a nestling worm in the flowers which strewed her path through life, and she derived her only consolation from the consideration of the sorrow of this life terminating by

everlasting glory in the next; as her firm conviction in the wisdom and mercy of the Supreme Being, assured her that what ever is, is right.

Rosa made Mrs. Mandeville promise, that if Albert's relations did not demand him, that he should be sent to her, when he was of a proper age to leave England; for Miss Rivers became so extremely fond of the child, that parting from him added considerably to her affliction. Captain Darcy accompanied Rosa to the Isle of Wight, and watched the Indiaman which contained the object of his fondest affection as long as it was discernible; on his return he found Mrs. Mandeville confined by severe indisposition, and for several weeks she was incapable of leaving her room. Albert was now her only compa-

nion and consolation, his prattle dissipated her melancholy, and she felt even a parental affection for the interesting foundling. London was not calculated as a residence for a person of Mrs. Mandeville's pursuits, and she was very anxious, as her health would now permit, to return to Newcastle; but she was under the necessity of postponing her journey, by receiving a letter of a very distant date from Bombay, containing the heart-rending intelligence that her daughter was in such a delicate and precarious state of health, that the only chance of her recovery depended on her visiting her native air; consequently, that she should take her passage by the first ships which sailed. The letter was very dirty; it had been forwarded to her from her residence in

the north, but several other post marks were on it; and by the date her daughter should have been with her several months previous to that time. Her anxiety prompted her to go immediately to the India House; but all enquiries there proved ineffectual, as the letter must have been intrusted to a private hand, and they assured her that no ships were then expected from the Bombay station. She was compelled to return to Newcastle in this state of uncertainty. To see her beloved daughter was a pleasure she had never expected on this side the grave; but it was lessened by the apprehension of what might prove Miss Rivers's reception in India; she had now no kind friend to receive and watch over her, and she knew that Rosa would be miserable to be thus alone in a strange country;

she also knew that she was partial to Darcy, and that he was also fond of her; and this induced Mrs. Mandeville to send Miss Rivers to India sooner than she had intended, that she might be removed from his dangerous society, as it was impossible that Rosa could ever be united to Edmund Darcy; therefore, the sooner she was married the better, as her good sense, then, with her ideas of propriety, would only make her recollect Darcy as the bosom friend of her beloved brother.

A year had nearly elapsed, and Mrs. Mandeville heard no tidings of her daughter; and what still more alarmed her was, that several letters came addressed to Mrs. Vansittart, at her house from India; but too soon the melancholy truth was communicated to the unfortunate mother,

that her only child was lost, as the ship in which she left Bombay was wrecked, and every soul on board perished. This news nearly proved fatal to Mrs. Mandeville; she expressed no violent grief, but such total inanimation took possession of her mind, that her friends were fearful for her intellects. For days together she never spoke; reading, writing, or any kind of employment she never attempted; Albert's infantine caresses even failed to rouse her from this dangerous apathy, yet her attachment to the foundling was still visible, as she appeared displeased when he was not in her presence; and she continued nearly three years in this inactive state, when the news that Rosa was married to her son-in-law, Mr. Vansittart, roused her attention, as the letter contained

a remittance to place Albert at a good school, as Mr. Vansittart would provide for him in India; she should then also be separated from her dear boy. At first Mrs. Mandeville lamented this as a great misfortune, but she took herself severely to task for thus considering her own comfort before the boy's advantage; and by giving herself up to unavailing grief had she not arraigned her Creator; was it not selfish in her to wish her daughter in this vale of sorrow? Prayers or tears could not restore her to her; her merciful father, perhaps, had snatched her from hence, that she might escape some impending calamity. In life she might have been miserable, she was now encircled with a crown of never-fading glory; she considered her as risen from the dead, clad in the robes of

immortality, gone to the regions of eternal day, above the reach of sorrow, vice, or pain. That voice which she had so often listened to with delight, now warbled sweet symphonies to our heavenly Father, our Lord and King. The society of miserable imperfect mortals she had exchanged for pure blessed spirits, and instead of lamenting, she ought to rejoice that she was in heaven. She reflected on herself for having neglected Albert; he must be now six years of age, and he could not even tell his letters; she had indulged him in every wish his little heart could form, but she had never thought of instructing him. Immediately such books were purchased as suited his capacity; but Albert had acquired such a habit of idleness, that he had no application, and every

day's lesson terminated in passion and tears, to the great regret of Mrs. Mandeville, who had always considered her little protegée as the most docile, best-tempered fellow in the world, never recollecting that hitherto he had not met with contradiction. In this state Captain Darcy found Albert; he made no progress, and Mrs. Mandeville was apprehensive that he never would learn. After great persuasion Darcy prevailed on his being sent to a day school, but the young gentleman disliked the confinement; Mrs. Mandeville conceited that the boy looked pale, and that the school room was too confined. Albert was taken home, and Captain Darcy undertook to teach him; he found that the child was not deficient in intellect, but that he was wayward, idle, and had completely

got the better of Mrs. Mandeville; he represented this to her, stating that it was injustice to the boy if she did not educate him, which could only be done by placing him at a preparatory school; to this she was extremely averse, as she confessed that his prattle constituted her greatest felicity, and that she should be miserable to have him at a distance from her. To this Darcy paid no attention, and under pretence of taking Albert to walk with him, placed him at a school twenty miles off. Mrs. Mandeville, for the first few days, was restless and miserable, for want of her favourite, frequently ordered a carriage, that she might go and see how he was, which Darcy always prevented; and at the expiration of a month, he fetched him home, when Mrs. Mandeville was

delighted to find him look healthy, and that he was neither peevish nor fretful; and she expressed her gratitude to Captain Darcy, for the fatherly part he had taken in the foundling's welfare, in having placed Albert at an excellent seminary. It is requisite that some account should now be given of Mrs. Mandeville's and Miss Rivers's connections.

CHAPTER II.

Sweet babes, who, like the little playful fawns,
Were wont to trip along these verdant lawns,
By your delighted mother's side,
Who now your infant steps shall guide?
Ah! where is now the hand, whose tender care
To every virtue would have form'd your youth,
And strew'd with flowers the thorny ways of truth?
O loss beyond repair!
O wretched father left alone!
To weep their dire misfortune, and thy own!

STANNINGTON Priory was within a few miles of Morpeth; a fine river separated it from a beautiful hanging wood, the pleasure grounds were laid out in a fanciful manner, and the hospitable owner rendered his house the rendezvous of all the fashionables of the north. The late pos-

sessor, Sir Eugene Rivers, had, at a very early period of his life, married the elegant Miss Lucy Beaufort; she was not only extolled for her personal attractions, but her amiable disposition and conciliating manner endeared her to all ranks in society. Being the daughter of a younger branch of a noble family, her fortune was scarcely sufficient to purchase the paraphernalia which was considered requisite on her nuptials. Sir Eugene's income only amounted to nearly two thousand per year, but he was so desperately in love, that he never reflected on the great imprudence of a person of his rank, with such a limited income, marrying a lady without fortune, or that his own expensive habits were more than adequate to all which he possessed; he thought that in

obtaining the beautiful object of his wishes, permanent happiness must prove his lot. For several years after his marriage, he resided at the priory, and his felicity appeared to be as perfect as falls to the lot of humanity; but Sir Eugene had in secret languished to visit the metropolis; when he hinted such a wish, the prudent mind of Lady Rivers intimated that such an excursion would be attended with great expense, and she confessed that she felt alarmed lest the dissipation of a town life should give them a distaste for the tranquil enjoyments which the country afforded, and in which they had passed their lives in such uninterrupted happiness; another motive to deter her from such a journey, was leaving her children; a separation from these dear objects of her

affection, she could not reconcile to her maternal feelings. This reasoning for some time postponed their going to town; but, at last, Sir Eugene obtained her reluctant consent to remove to London for a few months, by representing, that from the disastrous state of the times, and his increasing family, his income by no means answered his expenses; consequently, he considered it an incumbent duty in him, to endeavour to procure some place under government, which would enable him to provide for his darling infants; that he could only accomplish this desirable event, by renewing his acquaintance with some noblemen whom he knew at college, and in London he should be certain of meeting with them.—Longer to object to Sir Eugene's wishes was now impossible—

and on a bleak frosty morning, in the month of February, Sir Eugene and Lady Rivers took leave of their six children, and commenced their journey to the seat of fashion. To her ladyship, it was the most sorrowful day which she had ever known, and it was some hours before the affectionate attention of her husband could dispel the gloomy sadness which her countenance too plainly evinced had taken possession of her heart; but when he accused her of wanting confidence in him, and love for her children, to repine at a separation which ultimately must prove so beneficial to them, she pressed the hand of Sir Eugene, and with a fascinating smile, told him what had passed in her mind, and from that moment resumed her wonted cheerfulness.

Lady Rivers was astonished, at the

expiration of a month, to find the numerous acquaintances which she had made, and the round of engagements in which she was immersed; she became extremely alarmed at the great expense of their establishment, and she implored that Sir Eugene would quit a scene which must add to, instead of diminishing, their embarrassments. He quieted her alarms, by assuring her, that his friend Lord Chance had assured him, that within two months he should hold a sinecure, which would more than double his income; he intreated her to repose confidence in him, and that she would on no account withdraw herself from a society in which she shone the most resplendent ornament. Lady Rivers felt the full force of this compliment, and although she was as free from vanity as any of her sex, and

possessed a firm and enlightened mind, yet it was, indeed, flattering to her feelings, to be thus distinguished by the man to whom she had been married twelve years. From this period, she refrained from naming a subject which was so unpleasant to Sir Eugene; at the same time, she was apprehensive that his present associates had succeeded in giving him a propensity to gambling, as she had reason to suppose that he had lost considerably at hazard. Expostulation, she was convinced could prove of no use; therefore, she anxiously looked forward to returning to her peaceful home; but, alas! disappointment was to be her lot, for no place was given to Sir Eugene; and he informed her that he had promised that they should pass the summer with Lord Chance, whose country residence was near Southampton.

To this, Lady Rivers made strong objections, but Sir Eugene was deaf to all her intreaties, and she accompanied him into Hampshire. But Lady Rivers was of a delicate constitution, she had never been accustomed to vexation, or any uneasiness. The anxiety she had experienced since she came to town, undermined her system, and she was so ill, that the faculty ordered her to Bristol Hotwells. When Sir Eugene learnt the opinion of the physicians, he was almost frantic; he constantly attended her, and left his friend Lord Chance, although he exerted all his eloquence to detain him. They had not long been at the Wells before Sir Eugene confessed that he was so deeply involved that he could not return to the priory, as only a small part of his estates, were entailed. Lady Rivers prevailed on

him to sell sufficient to conceal his debts, and that they should again reside in the north; he consented to this, as he evidently saw that only this measure could procure Lady Rivers's recovery, as while her mind was agitated, no medicine could re-establish her health. Her mild disposition was extremely ruffled when she found that Lord Chance was Sir Eugene's principal creditor, and he was extremely pressing for what he styled the payment of debts of honour, but never mentioned the place which had been held out to decoy Sir Eugene to the gaming table. Lady Rivers returned to Stannington Priory, with a fervent hope that she should end her days there, and never more mix in the fashionable world. She prevailed on Sir Eugene to part from his horses, dogs, and all useless superfluities; she exerted

herself to make him feel the change in their establishment as little as possible, and her animated countenance and bloom deceived Sir Eugene, as he flattered himself that his inestimable wife had quite recovered from the malady which had so alarmed him; consequently, he was not prepared for the blow which awaited him;—at the same hour she gave birth to a daughter, she breathed her last sigh. Lady Rivers's life had been such as to render her a pattern for her sex; her equals lamented her loss, as her accomplishments, her agreeable vivacity, her patience and forbearance, under the consumption in which she had languished for several years, had endeared her to them; and her exemplary conduct, on all occasions, induced them to look up to her as a superior being. The lower order of society, in her, lost their comforter in

affliction, their physician in sickness, and a friend who always exerted herself to promote their welfare, both here and hereafter.

Sir Eugene's grief on the death of Lady Rivers, was at first violent, but it subsided into a tranquil, though deeply-rooted melancholy. The tears which ran down his manly cheek, when he pressed his infant daughter to his breast, too clearly evinced the affection which he had for her angel mother; in her he had buried all which could make this life desirable. He loved his little Rosa as the representative of the saint whom he had lost, which, connected with naturally strong parental affection, made him perfectly adore his little girl. Lady Rivers had long been apprized of her danger, but she desired

that her husband might remain ignorant of her situation; it would be cruel to tell him that she must soon die; she knew that such information could do no good, and he would too soon feel her loss; she dedicated much of her time, before her confinement, to benefit her husband and children. Several memorandums she left for Sir Eugene's consideration, but it was a long time before he had courage to open the cabinet in which she had deposited her wishes. The first packet which he unsealed, contained a letter addressed to him.

"WHEN this claims your attention, my beloved husband and friend, you will be separated from the wife of your affection, the mother of your children; but in a short

time we shall meet to part no more. I hope that during our union, I exerted myself to promote your happiness, and that I have so conducted myself in this life, as to merit the reward promised to the faithful. You, my dear Eugene, must now supply the place of both parents to our boys; let not, therefore, your affliction render you incapable of watching over their tender years. When you read this, bear in mind that I am happy; with this impression, surely, you would not drag me from the skies, and wish me again in this vale of sorrow; perhaps I may be permitted to hover over you and the dear pledges of our loves, that I may dictate to you what may prove for your and their benefit. Dark are the ways of Providence, while we are wrapt up in mortality; let us

then anticipate the ecstatic hope that I may meet you at the gate of death, and conduct you to the palace of eternity.

"I feel it my duty to exhort you to look into your affairs, and as our two elder sons are of an age to provide for themselves, let me intreat you to lose no time in placing them in some respectable profession; should I leave a little girl, if you have no particular objection, I wish her to be named Rosa. I have now to sue for your pardon in having presumed, without your sanction, to dispose of the family jewels. The policies of assurance, in this letter, will explain to you what I have done with them, and I feel convinced that my beloved Eugene, my dearest husband, will forgive this, I hope my only transgression. May the Almighty extend

to you his mercy, in granting you strength of mind to bear our transient separation, with resignation prays,

"Your affectionate wife,

"LUCY RIVERS."

The policies of assurance were two hundred per year on Sir Eugene's life. Lady Rivers, on her leaving London, had appropriated her trinkets to this laudable use; she was aware that their decreased income would not support them even in comfort, and such an increase would enable her to procure many little luxuries to which her husband had always been accustomed; he also found in the cabinet several bank-notes. Sir Eugene resolved to regulate his conduct as Lady Rivers had directed, and for the first time in his life ventured thoroughly to investigate

his affairs, when to his great grief he found that his remaining estate was mortgaged to nearly its value. He sent for his sons, stated to them his situation, and represented that he wished they would now fix on some profession, as in future they must support themselves, for that he could not maintain six sons and a daughter, out of the pittance he now could call his own; he expressed a great dislike to a military life, and he confessed that he hoped his eldest son would have no objection to the law, for he lamented to acknowledge that when it pleased the Almighty to call him to himself, that on John Rivers his brothers and sister must depend for their future advancement in life. John assured his father that he should always be happy to forward his wishes,

and solemnly promised that although the estate was entailed on him, when he had the misfortune to become possessed of it, he should consider that he held it for the benefit of his family. William Rivers requested to have a little time to decide on his future plans. He had just entered his sixteenth year; nature had been most bountiful to him, as his face and person were such as to interest every one in his favour; his mind was the residence of every virtue, and his disposition calculated not only to make him a valuable friend, but a great man. William listened to the recital which his parent had made respecting his property, with undisguised concern; not on his own account did he regret the fatal intelligence, for he was generosity itself, and had not one selfish

idea in his composition; but the little Rosa, what was to become of her, and his brothers? Young, uneducated, should they lose their father, who would instruct and provide for them? for alas! he too well knew John Rivers's disposition, and could place no dependance on his promises; his heart bled for what he feared might prove the fate of these beloved relatives. For him to remain a burthen to his family was totally impossible, and he determined to purchase honour and independence in the field of glory, for he had a decided antipathy to any other profession; but how to accomplish this laudable resolution was the great difficulty. He had not any military connections. Sir Eugene, he was fearful, would not accelerate his wish, more likely endeavour

to prevent it; his ardent temper was so depressed at having such obstacles to encounter, that he became dejected, and the once gay and interesting Rivers was so altered, that his friends became even apprehensive that his intellects were affected. Sir Eugene intreated him to inform him of the subject of his grief; that if possible he would endeavour to meliorate his sufferings. William candidly told his father his desire of entering the army; and as Sir Eugene found that the happiness of his son depended on his sanctioning this military propensity, he gave him a letter to Lord Canvas, whom he had very essentially served at an election, as he could not entertain any doubt of that nobleman's procuring a commission for his son. With enthusiastic expectation

Rivers prepared for his debût in the metropolis; and, after *only* a fortnight's attendance at Lord Canvas's door, he was so fortunate as to have a conference with his lordship. The kind and very gracious reception which that nobleman gave him, answered Rivers's most sanguine expectation; he invited him to dine *en famille* withhim and Lady Canvas, and requested that, during his stay in town, he would consider his house as a home; in short, he received William with that bewitching court deceit which is too frequently the ruin of the inexperienced. Rivers returned to the Priory elated with his success, watched every post with the delightful anticipation of receiving his commission; but when months elapsed without any tidings of his ensigncy, he prevailed on Sir Eugene to make a second application to his

patron, which brought an immediate answer, with renewed promises of friendship; but another quarter passed, and no ensigncy appeared. Rivers once more repaired to London, and waited on Lord Canvas; but his hopes were annihilated by his lordship informing him, that it was with extreme regret that he found he had not interest sufficient to serve him in the line; but that he had spoken to a relation, who promised to place him in the militia. The very sound of being in the militia was very discordant to William's ear. At his time of life not to be on active service he considered as very disgraceful; but prudence induced him to accept of Lord Canvas's offer, as he trusted it would prove a stepping stone to his getting into a marching regiment,

and departed with a strong assurance that in a few days he would have a commission; and the prospect of soon being able to maintain himself, restored Rivers to his usual cheerfulness; but, alas! he was again to meet with disappointment, for no ensigncy arrived, and weeks passed, during which period he remained in constant anxiety and expectation, when fortunately the parliament was dissolved, and as the noble Lord could not do without Sir Eugene's interest and influence, he thought it advisable to procure a commission, and William Rivers was gazetted in a militia regiment; but he was so disgusted with the patron, that it was extremely repugnant to his feelings to be under an obligation to him, and only the unfortunate situation in which he was placed could recon-

cile him to accepting of an ensigncy from a man whom he despised.

The service in which Rivers began his military career was ill calculated for a young man of his disposition, and although he was flattered and caressed by the ladies, and a general favourite with his own sex; yet every hour which he continued in such an inactive service, he considered as time lost, and having received marked attention from a gentleman of high rank, he ventured to request that Mr. Amherst would obtain a commission for him in the line, which he very graciously promised, and recommended our young soldier to Lord H——, who was then the commander-in-chief. Rivers now thought it totally impossible that any thing could prevent his succeeding in ob-

taining what he had so long and so anxiously wished. But William had not only to lament the disappointment of his hopes, but the loss of a sincere friend, as that relentless monster, Death, had suddenly seized Mr. Amherst for his own. Rivers made application to the secretary at war, to solicit that he would complete what his late friend had begun; but he was told that he had never been spoken to in his favour, and that he was not to consider himself on the strength of the list for ensigncies. Rivers measured his steps from the war office dejected and unhappy; it appeared to him decreed by Providence, that he should remain in a service, which he considered only fit for valetudinarians; consequently, disgraceful for a young man of his time of life. It was a considerable

period before he recovered that firm tone of mind which distinguished his character; but his persevering disposition prompted him to continue his exertions till they should be crowned by success;—but so little dependence can be placed on persons in power, that William was doomed to experience repeated disappointments; but,

> With him went hope in rank, a handsome mayd,
> Of cheerful look, and lovely to behold;
> In silken samile she was light arraid,
> And her fair locks were woven up in gold;
> She always smiled, and in her hand did hold,
> An holy water sprinkle dipt in deawe,
> In which she sprinkled favours many told,
> On whom she list, and did great liking shew;
> Great liking unto many, but true love to few.

A nabob purchased an estate in the county of the militia to which Rivers belonged, and he was nominated Major

to the regiment. From his first joining he took a prodigious fancy to William, which was greatly increased by his extricating Major C——— from a very disagreeable occurrence. At the period when the nabob first had the command of the battalion, they had orders to return to their own county, as the term of years for which the men had enlisted were expired; they halted at Croyden, when the Major went to the secretary at war, and stated, to his certain knowledge, that more than half the regiment had not completed their servitude. From this representation, orders came for the regiment to proceed to Chatham, instead of marching to their homes.

The following day they were under arms by three in the morning; Major

C———, mounted on a beautiful white Arabian, richly caparisoned, and at the head of the regiment, gave the command to shoulder arms; but not a man moved; he remonstrated with them, but obtained no reply; he threatened to apply to the dragoons who were quartered in the town, to enforce his orders; but no attention was paid to what he said: the Major then addressed himself to Rivers, and intreated that he would use his exertions to induce the men to obey his commands. William gave the order to shoulder, when the men instantly obeyed, to the great astonishment of the nabob; from the time of this transaction he shewed the greatest regard for William, and wished him to remain always with him; but this Rivers declined; at the same time he paid

him every attention in his power, for Major C—— was really an object of commiseration; he had amassed an enormous fortune by speculating in rice; but from that period he could never rest, the load of guilt which lays on his conscience, embittered every moment of his existence; the number of fellow creatures who had perished for want, to enrich his coffers, appeared to his imagination whenever he closed his eyes; and his conscience convinced him that he had no right to aggravate the misery of this neglected and cruelly treated children of humanity; that no legislator on earth can alter the nature of things, so as to make that right which is contrary to the law of our heavenly father, the supreme legislator and governor of the world. Injustice may be me-

thodized and established by law, but still it will be but injustice; it can only render men more insensible of the guilt, and more bold in the perpetration of it; but the hapless victims whom Major C——— had consigned to a premature grave, had ample revenge; for his days he passed in apprehension, and his nights in the most dreadful misery: frequently was Rivers sent for at midnight to pacify the nabob, as the most frightful figures appeared to his fancy; he would start from his bed, pale, trembling, his eyes fixed, implore William's protection, intreat him not to leave him, as his agitated spirits rendered him fearful of being alone. The miserable wretch had always a couple of lamps burning in his tent or chamber, and a confidential servant to watch by him, who

informed Rivers of the nature of the nabob's fears, as he had been with him in India.

Major C——— introduced his young friend to several families where he visited, Lord Montrezor was extremely pleased with Rivers, and assured him that he should have great pleasure in serving him, that he had some influence with the commander-in-chief, and that he might depend on his getting him a commission. William frequently dined at the hall, and every thing now appeared to forward his view; but, unfortunately, one of his lordship's daughters did not disguise the partiality which she entertained for Rivers;—he was the last person who discovered it, and when it was so palpable that he could not be deceived, he endeavoured,

by every inattention to the lady, to excite her pride, to prevent her continuing attentions to a young man who so pointedly rejected them; for even if he had a preference for Eliza, his honour would have prevented him, in his situation, from endeavouring to gain her affection; but in the present instance he made no sacrifice, for he really felt no partiality for the young lady. But Lord Montrezor discovered his daughter's sentiments, and with the fond sentiments of a parent, he thought it impossible that a soldier of fortune should regret his Eliza, and he in a very polite manner gave William to understand, that he hoped in future he would not come to the hall; and that he might prevent Rivers from being near his daughter, he applied for a commission for

him in a regiment serving in the West Indies; but the Earl was much disappointed by meeting with a refusal, which he communicated to Rivers, by requesting that he would meet him at an inn for that purpose. William was piqued at Lord Montrezor's not calling on him, instead of making an appointment at such a place, and in the course of conversation mortified the proud nobleman by expressing his surprize that he had not influence to procure a commission, upon which he rose in great anger; saying, he had sufficient interest to procure forty ensigncies, rang for his carriage, and departed immediately for London; and, in three days William Rivers was gazetted in two regiments. Thus pride accomplished what merit

could not attain, for only ostentation made the earl exert himself.

At this period Rivers acted as adjutant in the militia regiment, and they were encamped on Chatham Lines. A ridiculous event occurred, and major C—— was very anxious to have it investigated, as from what was represented, he was fearful that some departed soul was in pursuit of him.

The sentinels over the Dock-yard, had been frequently alarmed by a rustling noise, and a large substance appearing; but which went with such velocity that they could not ascertain what it really was: the sentries were doubled, but still the being, or whatever it was, eluded their vigilance, and it always made its appearance at that hour in which the super-

stitious say supernatural phantoms visit mortals. The story of this spectre created such fear, that men, women, and children, did not dare stir from their houses after dark. Major C—— was in agonies of terror; he sent for Rivers, and implored him to attend, and watch the ghost. William laughed at his fears, and wished to prevail on the nabob to accompany him in search of the ghost who had caused such general consternation, to which he consented; but when William called for him, his fears made him decline going, and Rivers, having a clear conscience, was not alarmed at meeting the spirit alone; he placed himself on the spot described by the soldiers, from whence the ghost always appeared; it was near a pond; William had not been long there,

before one of the sentinels fired; instantly a large animal was passing Rivers, when he seized him, and brought him to the major; it was some time before the nabob could muster courage sufficient to look at the spectre, which proved to be a large black goat. After the major had regained his composure, he desired that the beast might be taken care of, and returned to his tent much satisfied in having been the means of discovering this wonderful apparition, and reported progress to the general who commanded; and as the men were all convinced that it was the goat which had so much alarmed them, the double sentries were taken off; but it had been productive of such horror in the nabob's mind, that he became so deranged as to be incapable of duty, and was com-

pelled to be confined. Rivers lost a good friend in the major; and although he could not esteem a man who had been guilty of such scenes of horror, yet his benevolent and affectionate heart felt sincerely for the melancholy situation to which he was reduced.

As William was named to two regiments, he thought it a proper compliment to lord Montrezor to ask his opinion respecting which he should join; the earl named the one in the West Indies. Rivers directly waited on the general for orders, who desired him to remain in London till he heard from him. He of course did so, but as he gained no intelligence respecting his destination, and remaining in town was very expensive, he applied again to the general, who confessed that it had

entirely escaped his memory, and requested him immediately to join the corps in the West Indies; but, on his arrival, he was informed that all his regiment had been taken by the French, and where prisoners. Rivers was now at a loss how to proceed, but meeting with an old officer, he advised him to return to England.

William was extremely glad to return to his native country; for his feelings were in a constant state of misery, as he could not see the wretched creatures who laboured so hard to procure us the luxuries of life, without feeling the greatest pity for their hapless destiny; and he no longer wondered that the nabob had experienced such torture of conscience, after he beheld the negroes in the West Indies. He conversed

with several of them, and the account they gave him, of the manner in which they where taken from their relations, and country, he believed must be much exaggerated, and he was resolved to make himself master of a subject in which every generous heart must feel interest. He therefore enquired the particulars of a gentleman who had been several times at the coast of Guinea, who, with great reluctance, satisfied his curiosity.

"Some years since," he said, "I sailed from Liverpool to the coast of Guinea; on our arrival, I was ordered up the country to a considerable distance, upon having notice from one of the negro kings, that he had slaves to dispose of. I received my instructions, and went, taking with me samples of such articles as we had on

board, to exchange for human creatures. Upon being introduced, I presented the king with a case of English spirits, a gun, and some trinkets, which he graciously accepted; and the next day was appointed for viewing the slaves; about two hundred were confined in one place. But how can I describe the affecting sight I there beheld; the silent anguish which appeared in every countenance; the afflicted father, and the tender mother, dreading to be separated from their beloved children; the wretched maid, wringing her hands in sad presage of her future fate, and the piercing cry of the innocent, from apprehension of the perpetual slavery to which they knew they must submit. With a just sense of my enormous offence to my Creator, in the persons of

his creatures, I with deep regret acknowledge, that I purchased twenty; as our ship was small, we soon obtained our cargo, consisting of a hundred and thirty slaves; they were coupled together, and put up between the narrow confines of the main deck, with the complicated distress attending sickness, chains, and contempt; snatched from every endearing and social tie, and reduced to desperation, which soon was manifested: they formed the design of recovering their liberty, by murdering the tyrants who had so inhumanly dragged them to such complicated misery; but the supreme disposer of human events rendered their scheme abortive, and spared us, in mercy, that we might repent of our crimes. The ringleader of the plot was discovered; he was tied up by his thumbs

at sun rise, and received such a number of lashes. He remained in the situation till sun-set, exposed to the insults, and brutal barbarity of the sailors, who had full permission to exercise their cruelty at pleasure. The consequence was, that the miserable sufferer the next morning was found dead. Another victim was a youth, who, from too strong a sense of his wretchedness, refused nourishment; he died disregarded, and remained unnoticed, till the hogs had fed on part of his flesh. To enumerate all the sufferings which I have witnessed of these poor neglected children of sorrow, would, indeed, wound your gentle nature; suffice it to say, that those who remained alive, were soon disposed of for the benefit of the owners. Very frequently, these miserable beings

are deluded by the Europeans on board their vessels, on pretence of trading with them, and are basely made captives."

Rivers listened to this account with the greatest horror. What a load of guilt laid on the English nation for sanctioning such traffic in human flesh; what thousands of poor innocent creatures were murdered every year in the prosecution of this disgraceful merchandize. When we read and deprecate the cruelties and enormities committed by other nations, we never reflect on the bloodshed, and the dreadful miseries which our negroes endured, and he offered up a prayer for Mr. Wiberforce, that friend to humanity, who had so frequently exerted his influence in behalf of this suffering part of the community.

CHAPTER III.

To be good, is to be happy; angels
Are happier than men, because they're better;
Guilt is the source of sorrow; 'tis the fiend,
Th' avenging fiend, that follows us behind
With whips and stings. The blest know none of this,
But rest in everlasting peace of mind,
And find the height of all their heaven is goodness.

On Rivers's return from the West Indies, he visited the priory, and to his great sorrow, found that his father was more indolent than ever, that he had made over his estate to John Rivers, and that he and Rosa were to reside with his brother, who had lately married a lady of some fortune, and who in disposition resembled himself.

Sir Eugene appeared to have lost all energy of character; the loss of four of his children in the scarlet fever, soon after the death of Lady Rivers, was a shock which he never recovered, and William feared that he should soon have to follow his only parent to the grave. To leave his father and Rosa at the priory, was very repugnant to his feelings, for he thought, now it no longer belonged to him, that Sir Eugene would find his residence there not pleasant, as Rivers evidently saw that his brother looked upon all the family as intruders. To mention his apprehensions to his father was impossible, as he had never asked his opinion on the subject; he determined, therefore, to represent his anxious fears respecting the future happiness of Sir Eugene and Rosa, to their

friend Mrs. Mandeville: she assured William that her sentiments coincided with his; that his father had placed all his concerns in John's hands, against her approbation; but, as it was impossible to recal the past, the only thing now to be done was, to endeavour to place his parent in a comfortable situation; that as soon as his youngest brother went to sea, she should propose Sir Eugene and Rosa's removing to her house, under pretence that Miss Rivers was now of an age to require the attendance of masters, which, as she was ten miles from Newcastle, would be attended with great expense; that her house was sufficiently large to accommodate her friends, and, as her health now prevented her being so much at the priory as she wished, it would be

adding greatly to her comfort, to have Rosa with her, whom she looked upon the same as her own child. Mrs. Mandeville was the daughter of an Irish Baron, who left her five thousand pounds for her fortune; she was by no means handsome, but the easy elegance of her manners, with a certain *je ne scais quoi* in her appearance, rendered her much admired, and a great favourite; she had a younger brother, who was married to a particular friend of hers, and as their income was small for the establishment which their rank induced them to keep up, they resolved to pass a few years on the continent, and Rosa Stewart consented to accompany them. They resided in a small town in France, but, instead of its prov-

ing an economical scheme, it was quite the reverse, for their house was crowded from morning till night with the English. Temple Stewart became a professed gambler, and Rosa saw, with the acutest sorrow, that his wife entered into every dissipation which offered. Amongst those who most frequently visited at the house, was a Captain in the British Navy; he was handsome, his person good, and his manners calculated to gain the affection of Rosa; she thought him religious, benevolent, and generous; he never touched a card; expressed his abhorrence of gambling, representing, that if he had even the inclination, his income would not allow him to indulge in it, as his estate was only fifteen hundred per annum, which, till now, he had ever thought competent to

all his wishes; but since he had become acquainted with Miss Stewart, he found his mistake, for with so small a fortune, he did not dare presume to solicit the honour of her hand. Rosa blushed—Captain Mandeville interpreted that blush in his favour, and did not leave her till she had consented to unite her fate with his. Her brother gave his friend such a character, that Miss Stewart considered herself the most fortunate woman in the world, and she was immediately married to Mandeville; but a short time convinced her that she had only misery to expect in this world;—her husband she found was a professed gambler, involved in debt, and so far from possessing an estate, he had not a sixpence in the world, excepting his half-pay. The amiable, the accomplished

Rosa, he neglected—it was her fortune he wanted; as to herself, he considered her only an incumbrance. Her five thousand pounds was soon expended, and they were reduced to great distress. Mrs. Mandeville wrote to her eldest brother, and implored his assistance. Lord C—, with the greatest affection and liberality, engaged to liquidate her husband's debts, that he would endeavour to provide for him in the West Indies, and would allow her sufficient to live in ease, though not in such affluence as from her birth she had been accustomed to, but that he could not consent to call the man she had married, brother, or even to see him; that it was not pride which made him decline any communication with Captain Mandeville, as he considered an officer, who bravely

fought for his king and country, a fit alliance for the daughter of a Duke. But the man who could deceive a woman, and marry her to involve her in ruin, was he a Duke, he should despise; consequently, he and Captain Mandeville must never meet. Mrs. Mandeville could not blame her brother for sentiments which she herself entertained, for her affection for her husband had subsided from the instant she found him to be an impostor; but she expected soon to be a mother; he was the father of her child, and as such she must endeavour to do her duty as a wife and parent. Captain Mandeville's debts were paid by lord C——, but he would neither continue to serve in the navy, nor go to the West Indies, but lived on the three hundred per annum, which

Mrs. Manderville's relations had settled on her. Being a man of great expence they were always in distress. The birth of a daughter induced Mrs. Mandeville to prevail on her husband to retire into Wales, where they could live much cheaper than in London, to this he consented, and for a few years she was as comfortable as in such a joyless union she could expect to be; when every thing belonging to herself, and children, were seized for a gambling debt of captain Manderville's; she was compelled to remove with her infant to an inn, in the neighbourhood, as her husband was at Bath, and she had not money to procure another residence. Letter after letter she addressed to him, but got no reply; and in the miserable accommodation which a country alehouse affords, she

was confined with her second child. It may be naturally supposed, to a young lady educated in every luxury, such a situation must have been deplorable. Mrs. Mandeville felt the full force of her misery, but she was religious, she trusted in the mercy of her Creator, and she bore her sorrow as a Christian. Lord C—— heard of her resignation and fortitude; when he was told that his sister, even by needle-work, supported her babes, he was still more exasperated against the man who could so basely forsake such a wife; he sent for Mrs. Mandeville, and her little girl to his house; the boy was placed at nurse, as his mother's delicate state of health compelled her to adopt this measure to preserve his life. By care and affectionate attention, Mrs. Mandeville recovered her strength,

and, as lord C—— insisted upon her in future residing separate from her husband, a house was taken for her at Newcastle, to be near her dear friend lady Rivers; and she anticipated the happiness which was still in store for her, with heartfelt gratitude to that providence who had on all occasions extended his mercy to her in time of affliction. When the dreadful intelligence was communicated that her son was dead, this heart-rending news was greatly increased by the manner in which she was bereft of her child. The nurse sitting too near the fire, the infant's frock caught the flames, and the unfortunate boy expired in the greatest agony. Mrs Mandeville's intellects were not sufficiently strong to bear this severe disaster, and for some time the faculty entertained no hopes

of her recovering her reason; but contrary to their expectation she became calm, and by degrees regained her usual composure. Lady Rivers seldom left her, during her malady, and Mrs. Mandeville from that time was a constant visitor at the priory. Captain Mandeville sometimes enquired after his wife; but he shewed no affection for her or his daughter; who, as soon as she was fourteen, he sent to India, which was another severe trial to his wife; but no intreaties could alter his determination, and Mrs. Manderville was compelled to submit to his pleasure, as lord C—— advised his niece being sent there. It was not in his lordship's power to give her a fortune, and he well knew the little chance she had of marrying in England, without that necessary ingredient to

connubial felicity. About a year after Miss Mandeville left England her father died; since which period, Mrs. Mandeville devoted the whole of her time to educate Rosa, as from the time of lady Rivers's death, she made no difference between Miss Rivers and her own daughter. Captain Darcy was brother to Mrs. Temple Stewart, and his brother-in-law, Temple Stewart, eloped with his wife; he was an amiable accomplished man, and when he was not with his regiment, generally made Mrs. Mandeville's house his home. He was the bosom friend of William Rivers; from a child he had loved Rosa with brotherly affection; but within a few months he, with the greatest regret, was compelled to acknowledge that he felt for Miss Rivers such an affection, that if he

was single, would induce him once more to make his appearance at *hymen's altar*. Mrs. Mandeville found that Rosa also liked Darcy, and she considered it her duty to separate them.

——" Tell, ye who tend
The bed of death, how o'er the helpless race
Of human victims strides the harpy foot
Of misery triumphant! While the veins
Shrink to the fever's scorching breath, or feel,
Starting, the fiery dart of racking pain,
That writhes to agony; or loosen'd shakes
Before consumption; when her baleful sponge
Drops its green poison on the spring of life."—

Too soon were William's fears realized, Mr. and Mrs. Rivers treated Sir Eugene and Rosa with such neglect, and marked incivility, that he did not wait for Mrs. Mandeville's invitation, but requested that she would receive him, and his daughter,

as inmates; and removed to Newcastle as soon as he could prevail on his son John, to advance money to equip Frederick Rivers for sea, which for a long time he refused, stating, that the net rent of the estate, would not pay the interest of the money which had been raised on it; consequently, that Sir Eugene had no right to make any demand on it; that he had expended several thousands of his wife's property to repair the tenements, and there was not a single stick of timber to repay him. Sir Eugene was now convinced of his imprudence, in having put his property in such hands; but all remonstrance must prove ineffectual, and when too late, became sensible of his folly. Sir Eugene had now only the annuity which was purchased by

his much-lamented wife, to supply the wants of himself and Rosa. Mrs. Mandeville prevailed on him, not to make any further application to his son; if he engaged in a law-suit, it would only diminish the little income he had left, and keep him in a constant state of anxiety. However, John Rivers gave one hundred pounds for his brother's use. Mrs. Mandeville requested to purchase the necessary articles for Frederick, and agreeably surprised Sir Eugene by informing him, that his son was appointed a cadet in the company's service. She had also paid his passage out, and, of course, would give him letters to Mr. Vansittart, who had married her daughter. For eight years Sir Eugene resided under the roof of the hospitable Mrs. Mandeville; but the in-

gratitude of his eldest son was so galling to his feelings, that the endearing attentions of his beloved Rosa, could not efface it from his recollection; he blamed himself for not having at an early age, when John could have profited by his instruction, checked in him the dangerous passions of avarice and ambition.

High built abundance, heap on heap for what?
To breed new wants and beggar us the more;
Then make a richer scramble for the throng.
Soon as this feeble pulse, which leaps so long
Almost by miracles, is tired with play,
Like rubbish from disploding engines thrown,
Our magazines of hoarded trifles fly;
Fly divers, fly to foreigners and foes;
New masters court, and call the former fool;
(How justly for dependence on their stay,
Wide scatter first our play things, then our dust.

Mr. and Mrs. Rivers's behaviour was most insulting, as they would drive past

Mrs. Mandeville's House, and not even enquire after Sir Eugene, although they knew that his physician had pronounced him to be in imminent danger. Rosa wrote, and intreated that her brother would come and assist her in closing the eyes of their beloved parent; but he paid not the least attention to her affecting application. Sir Eugene had not been many hours expired, before a card came from Sir John and Lady Rivers, to offer their services to Rosa on the melancholy occasion which had recently taken place, and to inform her that he had given directions for a funeral such as a descendant of the house of Rivers was entitled to. Poor unhappy Rosa was so shocked at this ostentatious and unfeeling conduct of her brother, that she wished to decline his offer; but Mrs. Man-

deville pointed out the necessity of her keeping on terms with Sir John, as on him she now entirely depended. The unfortunate orphan clung to her friend, and beseeched that she would act on this trying occasion for her, as her affliction rendered her incapable at present of having any communication with her elder brother.

When the funeral was over, Sir John and Lady Rivers called; he expressed his sorrow in being under the necessity of representing to Rosa, that after Sir Eugene's funeral expenses and debts were paid, that scarcely any thing would remain to be divided between the younger children; that he felt most poignantly for his darling Rosa's situation, whose elegant education had given her such high and refined ideas as

must make her miserable; and he could not but blame Sir Eugene for having her taught accomplishments, which persons of large fortune alone were entitled to learn.

"As to myself," replied Rosa, "whatever is my fate, I trust I shall submit to it without a murmur; but I intreat, that no reflections may be attached to the memory of my revered and beloved parent for his munificence in my education. Had providence placed me in a situation to practise the trifling accomplishments I possess as amusements, I hope I should have borne my good fortune with humility. Now I value them as my future support; and I trust that by my exertions I shall be able to maintain myself, and not prove a burden to my friends."

"I was certain, that my beloved sister

would, on this trying occasion, make use of that good sense and firmness of mind, which she so eminently possesses; but I should be shocked that my Rosa should be dependent on any one for her support. Lady Rivers," he continued, "has such an ardent affection for her, that she is willing to submit to any privation to have her sister reside with them; it was, he hoped, needless to add, how much her being their inmate would contribute to his happiness." At the same time he observed, that duty to his family compelled him to consider their welfare; his own income was very inadequate to support his rank; consequently, he was certain that Rosa would not object to make herself useful, by undertaking the care and instruction of his two little girls; indeed, he was convinced,

she would take delight in exerting herself to make her nieces accomplished; that of course she should dine with them in the parlour, as Lady Rivers proposed having a girl in the nursery under Rosa. The orphan's colour raised so frequently, and she then become so pale, that her friend was fearful she would faint. Mrs. Mandeville, therefore, took upon herself to reply to this disgraceful proposition, saying, " that it was the last wish of Sir Eugene Rivers, that his daughter should go to India; and till she felt disposed to take such a long voyage, her home would be Miss Rivers's home; that her own health required change of air, and that she had it in contemplation to pass sometime at the sea side; but as she had business to transact in London, she should remain there till the season

was more favourable, and probably it might be a considerable time before she returned to the north." Sir John bit his lips—said it was very well, that he considered that he had strictly performed his duty in offering his sister to reside at the priory, that to do more would be injuring his own children, consequently, as Rosa and her friend refused his kindness, they must abide by the consequence, as he should not make any allowance for his sister's board elsewhere; but probably they were not aware that his father's annuity terminated with his life. The orphan now left the room, as her feelings rendered her almost frantic. Mrs. Mandeville assured Sir John, that she was perfectly apprized of the extent of Rosa's pecuniary expectations; but as long as she lived, Miss Rivers would

never want a home. Lady Rivers observed it was fortunate for some people to have such affluence as to be able to adopt a young lady of expensive habits. To this sarcastic speech no reply was given. Mrs. Mandeville did not wish to quarrel with the brother of Rosa, as she hoped that eventually he would do something for an only sister, and not let her go to India. Sir John and Lady Rivers soon took their leave, and Mrs. Mandeville expedited her journey to the metropolis, that they might not have any further communication with the inhabitants of the priory. William Rivers was recruiting in Scotland when Sir Eugene died; he immediately wrote to Darcy to intreat that he would see Rosa, and assure her, that he would supply to her the place of

their beloved and lamented parent, at the same time, sent her an order on his agent, fearing that she might not have sufficient money for her present unavoidable expences; and soon after Rivers wrote to Mrs. Mandeville, requesting that she would let Rosa reside with her, and that he would pay for his sister's board. How different was the conduct of the two brothers; Sir John was really in affluence, whereas, Rivers had only the pay of a lieutenant to maintain himself, out of which miserable pittance, he was willing to support his sister. But Mrs. Mandeville declined any remuneration for Rosa's expences, representing that Sir Eugene, fearful that at his death his eldest son would not do justice to his sister, had from time to time placed small sums in

Mrs. Mandeville's hands for Rosa, which she was happy to say, amounted to nearly five hundred pounds, the interest of which was adequate to all which Miss Rivers wished to expend. Before Mrs. Mandeville and Rosa left Newcastle, they passed a day at the priory. Sir John was extremely out of spirits, and appeared sorry that Rosa was so soon to leave Northumberland. At parting he placed a pocket book in her hand containing a fifty pound note; this was the first time that he had shewn any affection for Rosa since she had been an orphan; it had such an effect on her that she burst into tears. Darcy accompanied the ladies to London, where he remained with them, till his leave was expired; and as his regiment was at Deal, he prevailed on Mrs. Mandeville to pass

the summer in Kent; to induce her to do this, he took a cottage for her, in a retired situation, where she could enjoy the sea breezes without being in the hurry and bustle of a watering place.

CHAPTER IV.

———" Men homage pay to men;
Thoughtless beneath whose dreadful eye they bow,
Of guilt to guilt, and turn their backs on thee,
Great Syre! whose throne celestial ceaseless sing.
Oh the presumption, of man's awe to man!
Man's author!—end! restorer! Lord! and Judge!
Thine, all; day thine, and thine this gloom of night;
With all her wealth, with all her radiant worlds;
That night eternal, but a frown from thee;
What Heav'ns meridian glory, but thy smile;
And shall not praise be thine! not human praise,
While Heav'ns high Host on Hallelujah's live?

Captain Darcy and Mrs. Mandeville's friends, thought it advisable that she should remove from the north, as every surrounding object reminded her of those friends, whose loss and absence she deplored; and the greater distance she was from her pro-

tegée the better, as Albert would not then be so frequently from school. He had lost already too much time in his education, especially as Mrs. Mandeville had written to her Rosa, to intreat that Albert might not go to India, till she should have past that "Bourne from whence no traveller returns;" that to have him in any military capacity she was extremely averse to; that the law she was afraid would be attended with constant expence, as without a good connection, a counsellor had but little prospect of rising to any great eminence in his profession; therefore, she hoped that Mr. and Mrs. Vansittart would not object to his being a clergyman; that she had a friend who would place him on the foundation at Eton, and she had not any reason but to expect that his diligence

and good conduct, would gain from that school, a presentation to Cambridge, which would insure his advancement in the church. Rosa, acquiesced in Mrs. Mandeville's wishes respecting her favourite, and Albert's education was immediately directed to the profession for which he was intended. Mrs. Mandeville took up her abode at Bath; the waters she found of infinite service to her debilitated constitution, and the cheerfulness of the scene, which constantly presented itself to her view, had a very salutary effect on her spirits. Albert passed his vacations with her. From being at school, his temper lost that fretful peevishness, which it had acquired from the too great indulgence shewn to him, while he was with Mrs. Mandeville. His attention to

her was affectionate and grateful. As far as depended on him, he anticipated her wishes; his fine expressive countenance prepossessed every one in his favour, and Albert at eighteen, was just in person and disposition, what the most anxious parent would have wished their child. At Eton he had formed intimacies with some young noblemen; they went to college together, and their friendship continued unabated. At Bath, Albert was always in the first society; and Mrs. Mandeville in contemplating the success of her protegée, appeared to have taken a new lease of life, for she would frequent the rooms, and go to the play with Albert. One evening at the theatre, she observed that Albert looked extremely abashed, and she heard some one in the next box, in an audible whisper, "What!

did you not know that young Mandeville is the natural son of Miss Rivers? The affair was hushed up, and Miss Rosa sent off to India, to impose on some nabob! andshesucceeded, too, for she married Mrs. Mandeville's son-in-law, the rich Mr. Vansittart; but I wonder that the old lady has not more prudence than to let the young upstart idle away his time; for surely she does not intend to impose him also on her relation."

Mrs. Mandeville was so extremely shocked at what she heard, and trembled so violently, that Albert, who was not less agitated than herself, requested that she would allow him to conduct her to her chair; but before she left the house, she observed that the scandal which had so afflicted her, came from the mouth of

Miss Becky Nondescript; she, with her brother, their particular friends and toad-eaters, Colonel Mrs. Bombast, and Captain Ap-Strap, had all come to Bath. Miss Becky was in expectation of picking up some Irish fortune hunter, who would change her name; for even her brother had observed that she was now come to years of discression, and he thought that she would be more respected if she took out *brevet rank*; but poor Becky could not bring herself to adopt *mistress*, unless she had a legal right to such a distinction. Her brother had done every thing in his power to find a mate for her; he had solicited needy subalterns, he had petitioned maimed veterans; the church, the law, and physic, he had all attacked; but Miss Becky Nondescript's stiff and uncourteous

appearance, with her scandalous tongue, made all the men declare that they would sooner be placed at the mouth of a cannon, or hanged, than unite their fate with so much beauty and humanity.

Her face was ugly, and her mouth distort,
Foaming with poyson round about her gills,
In which her cursed tongue (full sharpe and short)
Appear'd like asp's sting, that closely kills,
Or cruelly does wound whomso she wills.
A distaff in her other hand she had,
Upon which she little spinnes, but spils,
And jaines to weave false tales and leasing's bad,
To throw among the good, when others had
disprad.

Albert the next morning threw himself on his knees before Mrs. Mandeville, and expressed the horror he felt in being the innocent cause of giving her such affliction; he said that although he had no personal knowledge of Mrs. Vansittart,

yet he felt the greatest respect, gratitude, and affection for her; to her humane interference he was indebted for the blessings which he now enjoyed, if it had not been for Rosa, he should have been a miserable cripple; could he, therefore, sacrifice too much for the being who had rescued him from misery and death? With this impression he considered it only his duty to withdraw from society, and in some distant clime languish out an existence, which, from the conversation he had overheard at the theatre, would be in future a burthen to him, as he was convinced that he should always be looked upon as an outcast of society; he could only by leaving England prove his gratitude to Mrs. Vansittart, as when he was not seen, the false insinuations respecting her cha-

racter would die away; otherwise, that when she returned to England, such scandal might render her miserable; that, as to himself, he was convinced that he was the offspring of guilt, for had he been blest even with poor honest parents, they never would have abandoned him to want and sorrow; that, after what had passed, he should be ashamed of shewing his face, as he was sure that the Nonde-scripts had so little feeling, that they would take pleasure in exposing him. Mrs. Mandeville intreated Albert to compose himself, that she would take measures to silence Miss Becky; that, as to parting from him that was totally impossible, for in him was centred all her happiness; that only despicable characters would pay attention to such a spiteful old maid as Miss

Nondescript, and as to the General, he was such an insignificant being, that his voice could have no weight in society.

Mrs. Mandeville sent to the Reverend Mr. Faith, and consulted with him, how she should act in this business; the good man was shocked that a person who professed the Christian religion should so shamefully traduce the innocent; he requested that Mrs. Mandeville would let Albert pass the day with him, and that he would take upon himself to talk to Miss Becky Nondescript upon the subject, which had caused so much uneasiness to Mrs. Mandeville. As soon as dinner was over, Dr. Faith told Mandeville that he must accompany him to General Nondescript's lodgings, for he knew that a large party dined there, and that he was

resolved to punish Miss Becky for her malice. Accordingly, they arrived at the General's just as the dessert was placed on the table; the servant offered to shew the gentlemen into the drawing room, but Dr. Faith said that he wished to join the party. Albert would most willingly have declined this visit, but he was desired by his patroness to be guided by Dr. Faith. On entering a general silence prevailed; the company consisted of Colonel, Mrs. Bombast, Mr. Nipcheese, father to Mrs. Bombast, Captain Ap-Strap, Miss Drybones, cousin to the Nondescripts, with Mr. Mac Nally, who was soon to be the happy spouse of Miss Becky, and a few others who appeared also to be of the Nondescript family; the party all looked at each other, apparently wondering what could

induce a gentleman of Dr. Faith's character to mix in such a despicable group, and the elegance of Albert attracted their admiration;—but it would have been worthy the pencil of Hogarth, to have delineated the countenances of this party, when the reverend clergyman thus addressed them: "I am aware, Gentlemen and Ladies, that the intrusion of myself and young friend at this time, is not strictly according to the rules of politeness; but I feel in thus publicly exposing persons who defame the innocent, I am performing my duty as a servant of our blessed Lord and Saviour. This young gentleman has his prospect in life damped by the scandalous reports circulated respecting his birth, by the Nondescripts; and an unoffending, respectable wo-

man, is said by Miss Becky to have been his mother. Mrs. Mandeville had her ears saluted by the most dreadful falsehoods at the theatre last evening; nor is this the first time of her feelings being lacerated by the tongues of the Nondescripts; on a former occasion, they traduced the character of Miss Rivers, excluded her from society, and now they are endeavouring to stigmatize Mr. Albert Mandeville, by insinuating that he is an illegitimate child, I should ill perform the sacred trust reposed in me, if I did not now inform General and Miss Nondescript, that, unless they sign a paper which may convince the world of the iniquity of their proceedings in this shameful and disgraceful concern, that I will apply to that court which can decide what penance

they shall perform for such repeated defamation." Miss Becky at this close fainted, which had a fine effect, and proved her delicate feelings; the rest of the company trembled so, that they could only throw water in her face, and were so confused, that instead of gently sprinkling the beautiful damsel, they threw a whole tumbler over her, which soon brought her to a sense of her unworthiness, and also that her tabenet was spoiled. Dr. Faith and Albert were leaving the scene of action, but Miss Becky loudly vociferated for them to return, and that she would sign any paper they chose, and intreated that all the proceedings might be kept secret. Dr. Faith said that was impossible; twice she had publicly caused Mrs. and Mr. Mandeville to be insulted,

and that the license she gave her tongue must now be publicly curbed; therefore, he desired that Mr. Parchment the solicitor should draw up the recantation. General Nondescript assured Dr. Faith that all was done without his sanction; and he trusted that as he had not been concerned in this last insult to Mrs. Mandeville, that he would not insist upon his signing his name to the apology. Colonel Bombast intreated that his friend might not be so disgraced. Albert immediately took the General's hand: "Allow me, Sir, to assure you, that I have no animosity towards you, and that I should be miserable, wantonly to wound the feelings of any fellow creature, much more a gentleman whose grey hair should command respect; on my own account I would most wil-

lingly waive all apology; but when you consider that Mrs. Vansittart, who snatched me from death, is so severe a sufferer, I am sure that you will feel that injustice to her, and my revered and respected patroness, that what has been advanced, must be refuted; and to Miss Becky Nondescript, lenience cannot now be extended. But you, Sir, I am convinced, Dr. Faith will excuse, when I tell him, that to have an old officer publicly disgraced, so far from alleviating the sensation of mortification which I experience, would greatly add to my sorrow. Captain Mac Nally pleaded an engagement, which compelled him to decline the superlative felicity of taking his coffee with the General. But the look he gave Miss Becky at taking leave, convinced her that she should not

visit Tipperary with her beloved Captain. General Nondescript was released from signing the recantation, and he expressed his sorrow for having ever sanctioned such iniquitous proceedings; that it would give him sincere pleasure to make all the recompense in his power, and he hoped that Mr. Mandeville, in future, would consider him as a friend, who on all occasions would be happy to serve him. Albert bowed—but he would sooner have begged his bread, than have accepted of any obligation from a man who had so wantonly sanctioned the ruin of Mrs. Vansittart's character. Mr. Parchment soon drew up the recantation, as follows:

UNTO all those whom it may concern, the Recantation of Miss Rebecca Nondescript, Spinster.

August, 18—.

MOST HUMBLY SHEWETH,

THAT I, Rebecca Nondescript, Spinster, have, at various times, and in divers places, from a malignant disposition, circulated, that Albert Mandeville was the son of Miss Rosa Rivers, by Captain Edmund Darcy; in consequence of which false report, the said Miss Rosa Rivers was excluded from appearing at the club ball, given in Kent, in 18—.

I, therefore, now do acknowledge, that all which I have advanced to the detriment of Miss Rosa Rivers's character, is false; and I most humbly beg pardon for my wicked fabrications.

REBECCA NONDESCRIPT, Spinster.

Witnesses. SUBPEONA PARCHMENT.

DR. ISRAEL FAITH.

Dr. Faith and Albert took their leave of the Nondescripts as soon as the recantation was finished. Mrs. Mandeville, whose heart was the residence of every virtue, felt for Miss Becky, as, assuredly, the public disgrace which she had experienced, was a sufficient punishment, and she intreated that no further publicity might be given to the recantation, as it was proposed to publish it in the Bath Journal; but to this Albert, as well as his patroness, expressed their entire disapprobation, and he went immediately to the editor, to intreat that it might not appear in his paper; but, although they took every precaution to hush up the matter, yet it was the constant subject of conversation. General and Miss Nondescript found to remain in Bath was impossible; and Albert, to his great afflic-

tion, perceived, that wherever he appeared, every eye was directed to him; and he rejoiced that in a few days he was to return to Cambridge, and quit a scene which was extremely painful to his feelings. But an unexpected event prolonged his stay at Bath. Rivers, who from the time Rosa left England, had been constantly in foreign countries with his regiment, was just returned to his native land crowned with laurels, and had obtained the rank of Lieutenant-colonel; but, alas! these honours were dearly purchased, and he was ordered to Bath for the re-establishment of his health. While under the command of the immortal Wellington, Rivers had performed miracles of valour; with seven hundred brave Englishmen, he charged and defeated several thousand French; but he

fell, covered with wounds. And in this lacerated condition, if it had not been for the interference of one of his serjeants, a Polish Lancer, must soon have terminated his existence. But Rivers was as humane as he was brave; the officers and men looked upon him, not only as their commanding-officer, but as their benefactor and friend, and not one of them but would have sacrificed their own life in defence of their beloved commander; and if they had not attended to Colonel Rivers, he must have expired, as his skull was fractured, and he was otherwise dreadfully wounded. When he became sensible, he found sitting by the side of his couch, a young female, who looked the picture of dejection; she enquired tenderly after his health, assured

him that she was happy to afford him every assistance in her power, that his friend would soon return, and then she would resign her place to him. Rivers was so weak that he could not make any reply to his fair nurse, but was lost in wonder and astonishment. In about half an hour, the door of his apartment was opened, when an officer in a foreign uniform entered, and the female spoke a few words and retired. "Cora tells me, colonel, that you are better, and I assure you that the information gives me sincere satisfaction."

"Is it possible," replied Rivers, "that I see my friend Darcy?"

"You do, indeed, behold Darcy, but you must ask no questions—quietness is absolutely necessary to preserve your life, and I will give you every necessary infor-

mation respecting myself and Cora. Finding that my promotion was not so rapid as I expected, I accepted of a lieutenant-colonelcy in the Portuguese service, and I was in the same action in which you was so roughly handled. Your bravery, my dear friend, was extolled by every one, and when I learned to whom we were indebted for such a glorious victory, you may be sure that I immediately repaired to offer you every assistance in my power, but I found you insensible to the kindness of your friends, and even a few hours since, I despaired of your recovery. Cora, my dear Rivers, is your niece; she is the daughter of your brother Frederick, whom for so many years you all lamented as dead. But when you are better able to bear the recital of his history, I will give it you."

From the great attention and care of Major Darcy and Cora, Colonel Rivers recovered sooner than was expected, and as he evinced much anxiety to know the fate of his brother, he intreated Darcy to relieve his suspense, as from the countenance and sable habit of Cora, he was fearful that Frederick had paid that debt, from which even monarchs are not exempt.

" Your conjecture is correct; but at present to enter into the narrative, would be too much for your strength, therefore I will ask Cora to give it you, that you may read it at your leisure. She is as amiable as she is beautiful; and I am rejoiced that she has you for her protector; she is now with some of her mother's relations, but, as she has an immense fortune, I think

that the present state of this country makes it by no means a proper residence for such youth and beauty; and as, of course, you will now soon go to England, Cora must accompany you. The aunt with whom she now is, wishes her to reside in a convent, but to this she has a decided antipathy; she is a Protestant, and as Madame Tabert is a bigot, the poor girl has no rest, for she is tormented from morning till night by the priests. But Cora is not a common character, she is sensible and well informed; she respects persons according to their merit, and she is neither to be biassed by splendour, or deterred by poverty. She has sense to discriminate, and I am convinced that she will prove an ornament to her family and sex. She frequently reminds me of Mrs. Vansittart;

she has the same gentle manners, but more vivacity in her disposition."

Mrs. Mandeville would not hear of Albert's returning to college before the arrival of Colonel Rivers, as she was desirous of introducing her protegée to him. But ever since the Nondescripts had been at Bath, Mandeville was become pensive, and he disliked mixing in society; in fact, the mystery of his birth now was a subject of constant unhappiness to him; he felt that, however by his exertions he might rise in the church, his name would always be coupled with infamy, for he was supposed to be a natural child, and, with his ideas, he would much rather have been the legitimate offspring of a mendicant, than the natural son of a duke. He now considered that every one who

courted his society, did it out of compassion, and the idea was so humiliating to his fine feelings, that he even forsook the society of his old companions, and, in solitude, with books, passed all the time which was not devoted to his patroness. He was in this mood when Colonel Rivers and Cora arrived at Bath. Mrs. Mandeville wished the colonel to take up his residence at her house, but he declined this kind offer, as he thought, at her advanced age, that she required quietness, consequently that himself, Cora, and his servants, would put the old lady to great inconvenience: therefore he took a house in the Crescent. Mrs. Mandeville sent Albert to wait on the colonel immediately on his arrival, and they were mutually struck and pleased with each other, and

from this period, for three months, they seldom were one day separated. The colonel found Albert a modest, well-educated young man, and was pleased with his society; and Albert listened to Rivers' account of the campaign in which he had been engaged, with the greatest delight; confessed to him that the army was the profession which he preferred to all others, but that, as his revered patroness objected to it, he should never think of even hinting such a wish to her; but that Colonel Rivers, he was sure, could not blame him for wishing, in the field of glory, to wash out the stigma of his birth, and that, by bravery, he might acquire a name at which he need not blush; that now, he forcibly felt the situation in which he was placed; that to Mr. and Mrs. Vansittart, he had

the most unbounded gratitude and affection; but at nineteen years of age, to be dependent on any one for his support, was very painful to his feelings; for, although he had something from his college, it was not adequate to his maintenance, and it must be some years still, before he could be ordained. Colonel Rivers admired the sentiments of his young friend; he sounded Mrs. Mandeville on the subject, but her antipathy to a military life was invincible; and she was so old and infirm, that the colonel thought it would be cruel to deprive her of her favourite, as, in all probability, she had not long to be an inhabitant of this world; therefore, Albert returned to Cambridge to pursue his studies. But he did not now leave Bath with that joy he would have done a few months

ago, before Cora, the beautiful interesting Cora, had made a strong interest in his affections. She had, invariably, treated him with the greatest attention; in company, she always shewed him marked respect; at the balls, she would even ask him to dance with her. Did this proceed from a partiality to him, or was it from that goodness of heart which graced all her actions? She knew that he was a foundling, that he had not a relation that he knew in the world, that in society he was despised, because he was supposed to be the innocent child of vice, and she was willing to lend her fostering hand to lead him to be respected in the company which she frequented. This alone, he was convinced, induced her to be particularly attentive to him; for the rich, the charm-

ing Cora, would never disgrace herself and family, by uniting herself to a foundling; yet, certainly, a less modest youth than Albert might have flattered himself that Cora was not insensible to his merit. She blushed when he addressed her, would tremble when by accident he touched her hand; she never sung so well as when Albert accompanied her; the weather was neither too cold nor too hot when he would walk or ride with her. If Mrs. Mandeville was particularly indisposed, Cora would watch by her; in fact, she always contrived to be where Albert was, and when he departed for college, she reminded him that he must write frequently to her uncle, for that they should be very anxious to hear from him.

Mandeville joined his collegiates with

a weight at heart which he never before experienced; to attend to his studies, he found totally impossible, for his mind was wholly occupied by Cora; he reasoned with himself on the folly of indulging a passion which could only make him miserable, for if even Cora loved him, could he act so base a part as to marry her, without even a name to offer her? assuredly, he would not, and he fervently vowed that he would never unite himself to Miss Rivers, till he knew who were his parents;—his friends rallied him on his melancholy.

> No knave but boldly will pretend,
> The requisites that form a friend,
> A real and a sound one;
> Nor any fool, he would deceive,
> But prove as ready to believe,
> And dream that he had found one.

Candid and generous, and just,
Boys care but little whom they trust,
An error soon corrected ;
For who but learns in riper years,
That man, when smoothest he appears,
Is most to be suspected ?

Albert was prevailed on by these nominal friends, to engage with them in every scene of dissipation; he emerged in fashionable vices, because he wished to forget all his cares; but he, like many others, found the error of supposing it possible, by wine, gaming, or idle and reprehensible pursuits, to erase from the recollection, real sorrow. After passing sleepless nights, he rose debilitated, irritable in his temper, and displeased with himself for injuring his health, and passing his time in such unprofitable pursuits. He would then, for some days, withdraw from his libertine associates,

and devote himself to study; but, alas! to the great detriment of society, the few profligate young men who infest colleges, do more mischief to society, than most of those who are condemned to expiate their offence at the gallows; for, by their pernicious, and too frequently fascinating manners, they destroy the morals of their companions, whereas, the robber only takes your purse.

In one of Albert's serious moods, he was summoned to attend the funeral of his beloved patroness, who had expired in an apoplectic fit; and this event roused Mandeville to a sense of his unworthiness. The letter came from Colonel Rivers, written in the most affectionate terms, assuring him of his unalterable friendship, that Mrs. Mandeville's loss should be sup-

plied by him; that, in future, he requested that he would consider his house as his home. Albert was deeply affected, he loved Mrs. Mandeville with parental affection, he mourned her as a beloved mother, and it would have been a great consolation to him if he had been with her to have received her last breath. When they lowered her coffin into the vault, Albert's feelings were so powerfully affected, that Colonel Rivers was compelled to support him from the church. His benevolent benefactress left him all that she had saved from her annuity, which, with the sale of her furniture, amounted to fifteen hundred pounds.

Beneath this marble rests the mortal part,
Of her who once delighted ev'ry heart;
How good she was, and what her virtues were,
Let weeping relatives and friends declare.

The heart that now this little tribute pays,
Too exquisitely feels to speak her praise;
Yet, would'st thou know the pious life she spent,
How many from her hands receiv'd content;
How many breasts, that poverty had chill'd,
Her charity with peace and rapture fill'd;
The orphan's sigh shall gratify thine ears,
And tell thee, some with words, but most with tears.

This epitaph Albert had placed on an elegantly neat tomb-stone, which he erected to the memory of his lamented patroness. Mandeville perceived that Cora did not treat him with that affectionate attention with which she honoured him before he went to Cambridge, yet she had refused several great offers, and appeared to have no intention of changing her situation, as she had rejected persons of the highest rank—yet he flattered himself that he was not indifferent to her, as when Colonel Rivers offered to procure an ensigncy for

him, if he still wished to go into the army, Cora changed colour—she observed, that as Mr. Mandeville had studied for the church, it would be a pity to lose such an education. Colonel Rivers assured his niece that it was a mistaken notion that an officer did not require a liberal education, for no profession demanded a greater knowledge of ancient and modern history, and also different languages; that Albert was in every respect calculated for a military man, and he saw no reason why he should not immediately enter the army—Cora was silent, but a suppressed sigh reached the heart of Mandeville; he accepted of the colonel's offer, as, independent of his own inclination for a military life, he thought it was wrong to be constantly with Cora, whom it was impos-

sible he could ever aspire to possess;—accordingly, preparations were immediately made for his departure, and in a few months he joined the 48th regiment. Previously to his leaving Bath, Colonel Rivers gave him the advice of a fond parent, and Cora, with a delicacy and grace which endeared her, if possible, still more to Albert, assured him, in the presence of her uncle, that she felt a strong interest in his welfare, that she intreated him to bear constantly in his remembrance, that titles, riches, and honors, could be held in no estimation, if unaccompaned by virtue, and that the meanest person, who possessed an unblemished character, would always be respected by the worthy part of society; that dissipation could not obliterate affliction; on the contrary, it would

only lead to extravagance, remorse, misery, and death; that in sorrow and sickness, religion alone could support, and enable us to bear with firmness, the trials which we must expect to meet with in this life; and she trusted that she might never have the affliction of being convinced that Albert no longer merited her regard—she did not wait for any reply. Colonel Rivers told Mandeville that he had been made acquainted with the dissipated life which he led at Cambridge, that he was also aware of his partiality to his niece, but that it depended on himself whether he should in future admit of him as an inmate, for that Cora would never unite herself to any one without his consent, and he would never consent to her marrying a libertine. Albert confessed how culpable he had been,

and he assured the colonel that he despised himself for his folly, not to give it a harsher term; that as to Miss Rivers, he certainly thought her the most beautiful and elegant woman he had ever seen; but that he knew his own rank in society, consequently, would never presume to make his sentiments known to Cora, for, till he knew who were his parents, he should think it audacity in him to address any lady, and from the manner in which he was discovered, he had no right to suppose his origin was even respectable. Colonel Rivers changed the subject, as he saw how deeply lacerated were the feelings of his young friend, when the subject of his birth was the topic of conversation. Colonel Rivers told him that early in the morning he had ordered a chaise, as he should

accompany him to town, and introduce him to his colonel, that he would not see any more of his niece, but that he might rest assured of her good wishes; that it depended on his own conduct whether she ever retained a warmer sentiment in his favour.

Albert joined his regiment, at least, the second battalion, which was then in Essex, where we shall leave him, with his determined intention of aiding in that carnage, which has already proved so destructive to mankind, and pierced our ears and hearts with the cries of the wretched widows and helpless orphans. "Ye potentates of all nations who command, ye politicians who council and obey, look well to events which threaten the depopulation of your species! be sure that the

effects so sanguine and so dire, are sanctioned by their causes; otherwise, shall ye be responsible both to man and God! to man, for the dismemberment of society through all its endearing ties; to God, for the disfiguring prematurely, his last best work, his own express image. O, beware! lest ye be condemned alike by conscience and the Creator, as the worst of murderers! condemned at once by the laws of earth and of heaven!"

CHAPTER V.

Great heav'n! how frail thy creature man is made,
How by himself insensibly betray'd:
In our own strength unhappily secure,
Too little cautious of the adverse pow'r;
And by the blast of self-opinion mov'd,
We wish to charm, and seek to be belov'd.
On pleasure's flow'ry brink, we idly stray,
Masters as yet of our returning way.
Seeing no danger we disarm our mind,
And give our conduct to the waves and wind,
Then in the flow'ry mead, or verdant shade,
To wanton dalliance negligently laid;
We weave the chaplet, and we crown the bowl,
And smiling see the nearer waters roll,
Till the strong gusts of raging passion rise,
Till the dire tempest mingles earth with skies;
And swift into the boundless ocean borne,
Our foolish confidence too late we mourn.
Round our devoted heads the billows beat;
And from our troubled view the lessen'd lands
retreat."

FREDERICK Rivers was a young man of strong passions, and having been accustomed to no controul; he was domineering in his disposition. On his passage to India, he contracted a friendship with a Mr. King, who was going out as a writer, and they became inseperable friends. On his arrival at Bombay, Frederick was received by Mr. and Mrs. Vansittart with the greatest affection; their house was his home, and Frederick had every prospect of making a fortune rapidly; but unfortunately he fell in love with Miss Tabert, a young lady of great beauty, and to whom his friend King had also a partiality, of which he made Frederick his confidant, who abused his confidence, as through his friend, he got introduced to the lady, and supplanted him in her affections. When this became

known to King, he resented it in such language as an officer was compelled to notice; they met, and the unfortunate King fell—the wound proved mortal. Frederick persuaded Miss Tabert to abscond with him from Bombay in a coaster, which was then under sail; the vessel was wrecked, and by the greatest good fortune Frederick and Miss Tabert reached the kingdom of Siam. His proud disposition would not allow him to apply to his family for relief, in his distressed situation; to Mr. Vansittart he dared not, as, from leaving Bombay as he had done, he had forfeited his commission in the Company's service, and taking Miss Tabert with him, he was certain, would give Mrs. Vansittart a very unfavourable opinion of his beloved Cora. On his landing at Siam, he was in a

deplorable state, neither himself nor companion had a second change of apparel. Fortunately Minheer Van Dam, a Dutch merchant, who was settled there, saw Frederick, and he humanely proferred his services to them; Frederick confessed his situation; and, as he was under such unpleasant circumstances, it was thought adviseable that he should go by the appellation of Belmont. He married Miss Tabert, and was received as a clerk in Minheer Van Dam's counting house; his wife never recovered her health from the fatigue and damps she experienced in being shipwrecked, and she only lived two years after their arrival at the kingdom of Siam. Frederick never enjoyed any happiness after having killed his friend in a duel; as he could not reconcile to his conscience having

robbed King, not only of his mistress, but his life; he never looked at his wife without recollecting that he had waded in blood to possess her; and he rather married her from a point of honor than affection. She was young, beautiful, and accomplished, according to the modern style of education; but when she was compelled to exert herself, as from their limited circumstances she was obliged to do, Frederick, with regret, too late found that his wife was a perfect fine lady, a mere doll, fit only to be looked at; and that she posesssed none of those amiable qualifications which are so requisite to insure permanent happiness, in a connubial life. When she died, he rather considered her death as a happy release, and from that period he devoted himself to business, and to instructing his infant

daughter. Siam is near Malacca; the Indiamen sometimes touch there to take water; the origin of this kingdom is so ancient, that it is even unknown to the inhabitants, and its history is only founded on the fables of the Siamese Priests, who of course substitute miracles for truths. The Royal City is in itself an island, surrounded by several others which renders its situation remarkable; three rivers encompass it on all sides, and traverse it by three canals, which divide it into different streets, that you can neither approach it, or go from one part of the city to the other, but in boats. Although it seldom rains, there are frequent inundations, when the country is overflowed for several leagues, and continues so for months. These inundations support the

fertility of the country, which produces cotton, fruits, and rice; but they are different in quality from those in Europe. During their inundations, the surrounding prospects presents ten or twelve leagues of water, above which you discover a number of beautiful terraces, at equal spaces, on which are erected the most splendid temples to their idols; the corn bends with ease under the barges, and rises undamaged; frequently the waters rise to the first floor in Cruma, on which account the houses are built on arches. In general, the tenements are composed of timber, and lined with bamboo canes; the furniture is tapestry and cushions, for the inhabitants sleep on mats, with a sort of coarse cloth for covering; but they are extremely cleanly, and even show some

elegance in the arrangement of their habitations.

The King's palace resembles a fortified city; it is surrounded by walls, but there is not a single window in the whole edifice, the audience chamber is of an immense size, the walls are perfectly unadorned, but the floor is covered with a rich Persian carpet.

The king is seated on a throne raised a little above the floor; in the court is an edifice, dedicated to one of their idols; but in these temples the men and women sit on opposite sides; the facades are richly gilt as is also the roof; the same homage is observed in the palace as in the temple; a profound silence prevails, and if an officer was to enter intoxicated, the offence would be punished by death. His

majesty never speaks, but gives all his commands by signs; the guard is very numerous; but, what is extraordinary, the royal person is confided to the care only of foreign militia, and in general to a troop of Tartars of approved valour. Upwards of three thousand mandarins are obliged to appear in the audience chamber daily; and if a report is made by the king's minister, of the smallest omission in one of these superior order, of the people, their noble backs are severely whipt with split ratans by the guards, who are lodged in barracks near the palace. The ladies are also indulged with this lenient punishment; and at all grand processions they walk with their backs uncovered, although all the other parts of their bodies are most decently concealed; but they consider it a

great honor to have been punished by order of their monarch. The gentlemen pensioners are a set of Indians, who boast their descent from royal blood; their courage surmounts all dangers, and they have no fear of death: but they are indebted for this bravery to the immense quantity of opium which they take, which renders them insensible to peril—and they seldom survive the age of forty. The body guards are all young men. The Siamese have such a veneration for their king, that it even extends to the animals consecrated to his use; the elephant is esteemed above all others. The officers appointed to take care of these animals are compelled to serve them in such a manner as is a disgrace to human nature, and if they neglect their duty, they are punished

with great severity; but when the elephants become tractable, and answer the pains taken by their preceptors, they are rewarded. The king confers titles on them, making them peers. Thus this singular nation reverses the order of things by conferring honors on submissive tame amimals; which, in civilized nations too frequently corrupt the principles of mankind.

In Siam the priests wear a yellow dress to distinguish them from the laity, and they are exempt from serving his Majesty, which all his other subjects are compelled to do for six months in every year, for which they receive no remuneration, and find themselves; but the slaves only work for their respective masters. If a citizen has a field or garden, should the king or his favourites take a fancy to it, they seize

it for their own use. Once a year his majesty, mounted on an elephant, at the head of his troops, shows himself to his people, the loyalty of a Siamese is, therefore, a passive sentiment; so when a rebel sets up his standard, they are quite indifferent about the event.

They are destined to wear chains, and are not disposed to run any risques for him who fetters them; a race of slaves will submit to any by whom they are paid and fed. The scenes in private life are not very pleasing; the civilized order is totally reversed; the Siamese women do all the labourious offices of life which require strength and fatigue; while the men pass their lives in indolence. The industrious females cultivate the land, and perform all the business of the harvest. This strange

custom arises fromtheshameful treatment, which the men experience from their sovereign; and they revenge themselves in their domestic government, for it is always observable, that those who have from infancy borne the yoke of slavery, or of poverty and obscurity, too frequently, when fortune changes, the scene become overbearing, imperious masters, solicitous to be obeyed.

The religion of the Siamese is paganism; but their notions of morality are confined; they are generally very honest in their dealings, are amiable in disposition, and humane to each other, also to strangers, affording them every assistance in their power; they punish adultery in the female by death. The Siamese women rise early, and prepare a breakfast for their husband

of salt fish and rice, which he takes, and then indulges himself with a nap till dinner, after which he amuses himself with his companions, in gambling, drinking, or some other recreation. The wife is seldom permitted to sleep in the same bed with her husband, to eat at the same table, or to walk in the same balcony; and when she is allowed to sleep with her lord, a pillow is placed on the mat, considerably lower than his, to evince her inferiority.

If a dead body is found in the streets, the magistrates assemble on the spot, and extend ropes for six or seven hundred yards each way from the corpse, and all the inhabitants within these boundaries are compelled to pay a fine proportioned to the proximity of their houses to the place where the body is found. This law is a very

political one, as in quarrels, the citizens interpose and mutually defend each others lives, consequently assassinations and duels seldom happen.

Some Portuguese have established themselves in Siam; but the heat of the climate increases their natural indolence of character, and few of them have succeeded in their pursuits. An English factory was also founded in Siam; but the brave and independent spirit of an Englishman, could not bend to the yoke of a tyrant, and they abandoned a country in which they found it impossible to erect an altar to liberty. Other nations had endeavoured to settle in the kingdom of Siam, but the Dutch alone proved successful. Inflexible by nature, their prevailing love of gain made them conform to the manners and customs

of a kingdom from which they could derive such wealth. A Dutchman considers every thing which is useful convenient; the simplicity of their manners gained them the confidence of the Siamese, who from the samples which they had experienced of other nations, had suspected all persons who indulged in luxury. Frederick Rivers was calculated to succeed in a mercantile house, for although he was overbearing to those who had the misfortune to be dependent on him, where his interest was concerned, he could stoop to any meanness to ingratiate himself with those who could benefit him. Minheer Van Dam soon found him to be very useful to him, and he gradually rose till he became head clerk, at which period he had amassed a handsome independence,

as he lived, for a person of his fortune, in the most penurious manner; his daughter passed all her time with Mrs. Van Dam, who, from her infancy, had taken a great partiality to Cora; and, as she had no children, instructing her was a great amusement. Minheer Van Dam's health declined, and he found himself incapable of attending to business; he therefore took Frederick into partnership, and in a few years he resigned the whole of the concern to him; but Mr. Belmont disposed of the business very advantageously; he was induced to do this, as Cora was now fifteen; and, although he had gratified the first wish of his heart, in realizing an immense fortune in Siam, yet his vanity would not allow him to remain there. He now wished to return

to his native country, and shew his brother John, that he could live in greater style than he could do; and that his daughter would be one of the richest heiresses in England. Accordingly, he left Siam, and determined to visit Lisbon, previously to his return to England, as an aunt of his wife's, who had a large fortune, he knew resided there, and he wished Cora to be now known to her relations. On his arrival in Portugal, he heard that colonel Rivers was with his regiment, and he resolved upon waiting on him, still continuing the name of Belmont, to find out the situation of his family. As to his sister, he frequently heard of her; but the rest of his relations he had not had any account of for many years.

Cora had no inclination to leave Siam;

she had passed her days there in tranquillity, she loved Mrs. Van Dam as a mother, and she dreaded to be alone with her father; for, although he loved her better than any thing in the world but his money, yet he had a severity in his manner, which created in her such fear, that she never felt easy with him; she was dutiful and affectionate to him, more from principle than love. But so it is,—*L'Homme propose—mais Dieu dispose*—for Frederick, a few days after his landing in Portugal, was seized with a fever. He desired to be attended by a military surgeon, and Madame Tabert sent to colonel Darcy, whose regiment was then near her residence, to request that he would forward medical assistance, as an English gentleman was in a dangerous state in her house.

Darcy immediately brought a surgeon, and offered his services, if he could be useful to the invalid; Madame Tabert expressed how severely she felt obliged for his kind attention, that if the medical gentlemen really thought Mr. Belmont in danger, it would be necessary that he should make a will, in which case she hoped that colonel Darcy would see that it was properly executed, to which he assented. The surgeon pronounced that his patient was now perfectly in his senses, but that how long he might continue so, was very uncertain; that if he had not settled his worldly concerns, that he should immediately do so, as he thought it improbable that the gentleman would recover. A notary was sent for, and Madame Tabert, and colonel Darcy, accom-

panied him to Mr. Belmont's chamber, but mutual astonishment took place, when the invalid acknowledged his name to be Frederick Rivers. Darcy made himself known to him, and from that time he never quitted the room, till Frederick died. He promised to place Cora in the hands of her uncle; the wealth which he bequeathed was immense. Sir John, Colonel Rivers, and Darcy, he nominated guardians to his daughter: the thought of dying was most afflicting to him; he expressed no fears for the future, but regret that he must leave his riches, and that he could not mortify his proud brother by his splendour.

By nature's law what may be—may be now,
There's no prerogative in human hours:

In human hearts what bolder thoughts can rise,
Than man's presumption on to-morrow's dawn?
Where is to-morrow? in another world.
For numbers this is certain: the reverse
Is sure to none; and yet on this perhaps,
This peradventure, infamous for lies,
As on a rock of Adamant we build
Our mountain hopes; spin out eternal schemes,
And big with life's futurities expire.

Cora bore the loss of her father with becoming resignation; he had been the only parent or relative which she had ever known; she was in a strange country, without a single friend, her aunt was by no means conciliating in her manners, the customs of the country were so totally different to those in Siam, that Miss Rivers wished herself back in the kingdom which gave her birth; she had scarcely done weeping for her father, before she was informed of the dangerous state of colonel

Rivers, and from the character which she had heard of him, she felt that on him her future happiness would depend, for she had been so accustomed to have all the comforts of life, that she set no value on the immense fortune she possessed, she only considered it intrusted to her, for the benefit of her fellow creatures, and she looked upon herself as accountable to her maker, for the manner in which she expended it. With this impression, while she remained in Portugal, she made large donations to several convents, and she requested that her aunt would appropriate annually, a sum for the relief of the indigent in her neighbourhood.

Colonel Rivers proposed for his niece to reside with him, when peace should be restored to old England, to which pro-

position she very readily consented, as his amiable and cheerful manners, made his society very agreeable to her, and from what she had seen of Sir John, and lady Rivers, during a short visit which they made the colonel in Bath; she had formed no very favourable opinion of their society; but she was under the necessity of disguising her sentiments, for fear of giving offence, and she promised as soon as her uncle joined his regiment, that she would go to the priory. Colonel Rivers went to London with Albert, as he had heard from his agent that the merchants in London who had his late brother's effects, refused to make over any statement of the property, only a small part of which had been remitted to them from Siam, alleging that the will was made in the name of Frederick

Rivers, without mention of any other name, and that they never had any concerns or communications with a gentleman of that appellation, that the only merchants for whom they had ever been concerned in Siam, was the house of Minheer Van Dam and Belmont; consequently, they had no right to pay attention to the will submitted to their inspection. Colonel Rivers took counsel's opinion, which did not prove favourable to his wishes; and the only step to be taken was to make application to Minheer Van Dam, which he hoped would settle a business, which at present he feared would be attended with much trouble; he carefully concealed this intelligence from Cora, as he thought it would be time enough to tell her, when the letters from Siam

arrived; but Colonel Rivers regretted now that she had such a decided preference to Mandeville, as she had on that account refused the Honourable Mr. Clairville, a young gentleman of great expectations, and should she not recover her fortune, it would be madness to think of Albert; at the same time, he was so partial to Mandeville, that he knew no one whom he thought so deserving of Cora; but he blamed himself for having sanctioned her preference to him, as he now only saw disappointment for them both; for if even Cora was the rich heiress expected, he knew that his young friend had a strong sense of honour, and great pride; consequently, he would even reject Cora, unless the mystery of his birth was unravelled. To the great astonishment of his niece, on

the Colonel's return from town he never mentioned Albert, and frequently invited Mr. Clairville to his house, and appeared to favour his pretensions to his niece. This conduct created fears in Cora that Mandeville was again unworthy of her regard; probably he was going on in the same dissipated career, in which he had been engaged previous to the death of his benefactress; for, otherwise, her uncle would not be silent on every subject which led to the mentioning of Mandeville. Suspense to such a disposition as her's was intolerable, and she resolved on asking the Colonel respecting his favourite. With many blushes she opened the subject, and intreated to know whether Albert had returned to his former reprehensible manner of life. Her uncle candidly told her,

that he had heard very favourable accounts of him, that he conducted himself in every respect as he could wish, and that he had purchased his Lieutenancy. He then represented the folly of encouraging a partiality for a young man, who had neither birth nor fortune to recommend him, and who was engaged in a military life from choice; and who, he was certain, would not resign his commission to obtain a coronet;—that he regretted having placed them so frequently together, as, from their similarity of disposition and pursuits, it was natural that they should become attached to each other; but he trusted that reason would point out to her the impropriety, not to add the impossibility of their ever being united; that his brother had written to him rather

severely on the subject; representing, that till she was of age, that he was her guardian, and that he would never consent to her marrying a beggar, who had been educated by charity: these, the Colonel continued, are the sentiments of Sir John. I do not tell you, that I am of the same opinion:

"For an honest man is the noblest work of God."

but still society compels us to sacrifice our feelings, when, by indulging them, we set a bad example to the community.

"If you, mydear Sir," replied Cora, "say that Albert is a good man, I will set the world at defiance! Of what advantage is my fortune, if it cannot purchase my happiness? Rest assured, that I will never marry against your consent; but if the fates divide me from Mandeville, I will

never marry any other person; consequently, I hope that you will release me from the addresses of Mr. Clairville, for they really are extremely disagreeable to me."

"A few weeks hence, Cora, I must return to my regiment, when you will go to the priory; consequently, you will then be released from the addresses of all your Bath lovers." Cora, with a heavy heart, accompanied her uncle to the priory. The parting from him was the severest affliction which she had ever experienced, for she loved him with the sincerest affection. She intreated him to write to her frequently, and long letters, as his correspondence would be her only comfort; that she should feel interested in all his concerns; and, therefore, re-

quested that he would tell her every thing which was going forward. The Colonel promised that he would gratify her in this particular ; and begged to know, whether she felt interested in the fate of any particular regiment. Cora was integrity itself, and she acknowledged that she did ; and she continued, " while the object of my preference remains deserving of your patronage, no change will ever take place in my sentiments, as my regard for him is founded on a conviction, that he is as perfect in character, as falls to the lot of humanity." Cora did not indulge in unavailing grief, because she was separated from those who were dear to her ; she endeavoured, by her attention to Sir John, Lady Rivers, and her cousins, to gain their affection; but her beauty and accom-

plishments rendered her an object of envy to the young ladies. Lady Rivers seemed displeased, that more attention was paid to her niece than to her daughters; and Cora very evidently saw, that her company at the priory was by no means desirable to the inhabitants. She amused herself by visiting the poor, and attending the sick: she devoted, also, much of her time to reading, and, whenever she could, excused herself from joining the company in the drawing room. But this generally drew on her some severe remark from her uncle, that she indulged in solitude her affection for a foundling. Several months had elapsed, and she had not heard from colonel Rivers: at last a letter was delivered to her, which she opened with the pleasing anticipation, that she should now hear of those who

was most dear to her affections, when she read

Lombard Street, 18—

Miss Rivers,

This is to inform you, that we have heard from our correspondents at Siam, that they inform us, that they never heard of any person being in that kingdom, of the name of Frederick Rivers, nor is there any register of Cora Rivers. Minheer Van Dam has been dead some time, and his widow is gone from the kingdom of Siam. After this statement you can have no further commands for,

Miss Rivers,

Your obedient,

Humble servant,

Alexander Bale, and Co.

To Miss Rivers.

Cora gave this epistle to her uncle, as it

was unintelligible to her; but Sir John soon informed her of the subject to which it alluded: he told her the particulars respecting her fortune, which had been concealed from her, by the desire of his brother; but lady Rivers observed, that she thought it was very fortunate that the letter was addressed to Cora, for it was full time that she should know, that instead of her being a great heiress, in fact, that she was dependent on her relations for support. Cora was so astonished, that if tears had not come to her relief, she must have fainted. Sir John saw, and pitied her distress; and by way of comforting her, assured her, that the colonel would always maintain her; but he trusted that she would not long submit to be a burthen to him, as he expected Mr. Clairville to

make some stay with them; and, that although he knew that her fortune was in a very precarious state, that he was still willing to marry her, as, unless some person could identify that Frederick Belmont, and Frederick Rivers, were the same person, that she could not recover her property. Cora assured her uncle, that nothing would ever induce her now to accept of Clairville; that she felt grateful for his affection and liberality, but she never could be his. From this time Cora experienced pointed neglect, from all her relations at the priory; before company they would pity her, observing, that it was a cruel thing for a person brought up with the expectation of a large fortune, to be at once left pennyless; and the orphan now found that she was no longer pestered

with lovers; as, excepting by the constant Clairville, she was seldom taken any notice of. Her heart acknowledged the kindness of his attention, and she took an opportunity of thanking him; also to tell him, candidly, that, although Albert had never spoken to her on the subject of love, or that he knew that she preferred him to any other man; yet she was convinced that he loved her, and that she could never consent to marry any other person, while she retained the sentiments which she now did for him. Clairville said, after such a confession, he should feel it indelicate to address her on any other footing than as a friend, and he intreated that she would do him the justice of ranking him as one of her sincerest. Cora was in this situation, when an aunt of lady Rivers arrived

at the priory. Lady Gordon was a widow of independent fortune; she had one daughter, who was in delicate health, and she was going to travel for some months, thinking that change of scene, and air, would be of benefit to Matilda.

The easy elegant manners of Cora struck lady Gordon; she saw that she looked unhappy. Matilda took a great fancy to her, and her mother, who on all occasions was anxious to promote her pleasure, thought that a companion of her own age would be very agreeable in the tour which they were about to make. When she came to the priory, it was with the intention of having one of her nieces as a companion to Matilda; but their affectation and pride disgusted her; the account she had of Cora's situation from

Sir John, interested her feelings in favour of the orphan, to whom she made an offer of accompanying her to the south; to which Cora assented with great satisfaction. At first, Sir John Rivers and family objected to this plan, as they wished one of their daughters to have been selected as the companion of their cousin; but lady Rivers was soon reconciled to Cora's going, for she was so jealous of her beauty and accomplishments, that she was glad on any terms to get rid of such an intruder in her family. Lady Gordon's stay at the priory was short, and Cora left the north without the smallest regret; Clairville took leave of her with great affection, begged her to consider him not only as a friend, but a brother; and that should she ever have occasion for a male adviser,

during the absence of the colonel, that she would ever find him a disinterested one. Her uncle appeared much dejected at her departure; he had not been happy in his domestic connection for some time, and the gentle manners of Cora had made a strong interest for her in his heart; but the idea of her ever being united to Albert was a subject which always put him in a passion. It was supposed that this originated from his second daughter, Miss Clara Rivers, whom he knew had a great affection for Mandeville, who had shewn the most perfect indifference to her. So unaccountable is human nature that, although Sir John would sooner have followed his daughter to the grave, than have seen her united to Albert, yet he could not endure the idea that a foundling should not respect her.

CHAPTER VI.

If misfortune comes, she brings along
The bravest virtues. And so many great
Illustrious spirits have conven'd with woe,
Have in her school been taught, as are enough
To consecrate distress, and make ambition
Ev'n wish the frown beyond the smile of fortune.

Cora was much suprised at finding such excellent accommodations at the different inns, in which they slept on their journey to London; she had no idea how persons in such a capacity could acquire such polished manners. The plate, glass, and elegance of the furniture astonished her—so different to what she had met with in Portugal; where the immense rooms

represent the misery of decayed splendour, where the beds which had been sumptuous were hanging in tatters, and the ancient magnificent decorations were now receptacles for spiders; and she had frequently felt the misery, in these fine dismantled castles, of being nearly devoured by vermin, of which her aunt took no notice, and did not appear to suffer from such disagreeable companions. But as soon as Cora entered an English hotel, the courteous manner of the master and servants, their anxiety to supply all your wants, so pleased the orphan, that she regretted when the time arrived that they were to leave the Pulteney Hotel. Lady Gordon had taken the young ladies to every fashionable place of amusement while they remained in town; but Cora,

who was passionately fond of music, preferred the opera to all other entertainments. In London she heard that Albert was on the recruiting service; but that it was expected that he would soon join his regiment in Portugal; she heard also from her uncle, who was then in Spain; he approved of her being with Lady Gordon, and represented to her the great advantage of travelling with a lady of her rank and general information. Cora was much pleased with her companions, and she regained that cheerfulness of temper which was natural to her disposition; she devoted her whole attention to improvement, by studying the manners of the people; but she found it beyond her ability to decide on the character of the English nation; as it appeared to her, that the

persons with whom they associated, differed as much in sentiment as in form; the only assimilation was a deep national reserve; and a forbidding coldness, frequently in the ladies, which rendered it very difficult to draw them into conversation; and she found that it required a great repetition of those little civilities which make up the happiness of human life, to produce a flow of good humour or good sense from English ladies. This great reserve Cora could not reconcile to her ideas, either of sound judgment or good breeding. Mrs. Van Dam had early instilled in her mind; that, however exalted our station, we were all links of the same chain, depending on each other for our happiness or misery in this life; consequently, that a cau-

tious behaviour was absolutely indispensable for those who mix in society; as "a sweet word not only turneth away wrath," but it is productive of wisdom, knowledge, and of pleasure; an engaging manner must prove acceptable to the proudest disposition, the smile of peace will soften the asperities of the worst temper, and will give it even a ray of pleasure; therefore, it remained an enigma to her, why the softer sex should not avail themselves of a qualification which would yield them such happiness. The Universities of Cambridge and Oxford Lady Gordon proposed to visit; and, as Mandeville and Clairville came to town a few days before their intended excursion, they offered to attend them, which was very acceptable to the ladies, as, having

been so long at Cambridge they would shew them all the lions. Cora did not disguise the pleasure she felt in having Albert of the party, and his attention to her was more delicate than ever; he knew that she had lost her fortune, he told her that on his own account he rejoiced at it, for now, if he could only know from whom he had gained his existence, he should presume to solicit her hand, which, while her wealth placed her at such an immense distance, he could never have brought himself to do, for fear that interested motives might have been imputed to him. On this subject Cora entreated he would be silent, that he might rest assured that he possessed her sincere esteem, and that time alone must decide what would be their destiny. Albert was

delighted at this frank confession of Cora's, and he determined, as far as depended on himself, to prove worthy of her. Cora, from the accounts which she had read of the two English Universities, had always considered them, both in a religious and moral light, as objects of great veneration, and she contemplated with enthusiastic attention, buildings which had given to England a Boyle, a Milton, a Newton, &c. &c. Her mind became elevated when she considered the great utility of the learned seminaries, the happy consequences resulting from young men devoting their early years to study; the friendships which are contracted at this period of our existence, she wisely considered as one of the greatest blessings in life, as such intimacies

frequently extended even beyond the limits which gave them birth; the high principle of honour which is inculated in their bosoms teaches them to spurn all disgraceful actions; they inculate all those virtues which are honourable in public, or valuable in private life.

The University of Cambridge is so ancient that it is not ascertained who was the founder. Henry the First received his education there, and from his proficiency in learning was called Beauclerc. Formerly the students boarded in the town, as only halls or hotels were hired for them to study in, but they found this attended with such inconvenience, that colleges and halls were endowed. The number of fellows amounts to 406, with 666 scholars, beside 236 inferior mem-

bers, all of whom are supported from the revenues of their different societies; independent of this, there are some exhibitions given for a limited time to students.

The senate house stands in the centre of Cambridge; it is a very grand building of the Corinthian order; in this building is a spacious room, the ceiling of which is curiously wrought in stucco-work; the sides are adorned with galleries and columns: the length of this room is upwards of one hundred feet, and the width nearly fifty, the height thirty-two; the gallery alone will contain upwards of one thousand. The public library forms the west side of the new square; the approach is by a geometrical stone staircase. In the old library is a copy of

Magna Charta. They also saw the cabinet of oriental books and curiosities presented by Mr. Archdeacon Lewis; and a sheet of paper, four yards long, and one and a half wide. On the west side of the court are thirty-thousand volumes, given by George the First. The Philosophical, Law, and Physic Schools, are under these rooms.

Near Benet's Cottage is the botanic garden. It originally was the property of the Augustin friars. A large green-house was built and furnished by subscription; the garden is arranged according to the system of Linnæus; in the house the students attend the leture on botany and chemistry.

Hughde Balsam, sub-prior of Ely, founded St. Peter's College; he bought a hall; and when he was nominated to the see of

Ely, he obtained a charter of incorporation, and endowed the college with lands adequate to the maintenance of one master and fourteen fellows; the chapel has a beautiful painted glass window, representing the crucifixion; the organ was the gift of the late Sir Horatio Man. St. Peter's has the luxuries of cold baths, a spacious pleasure ground, and a large garden.

Richard Badaw, of Essex, in 1328, built a small college, which he called university hall; sixteen years after, it was accidentally consumed by fire. Dr. Badaw, from the patronage and bounty of Elizabeth, sister of the Earl of Clare, rebuilt a college, from which period it was named Clare hall.

The grounds to Clare Hall are very beautiful, and in the summer are much frequented.

The chapel is particularly worthy of attention; it has an anti-chapel of an octagon shape, and is lighted by a dome; the library is small, but extremely well fitted up.

Mary, the wife of Aymer de Valentia, Earl of Pembroke, was the foundress of Pembroke hall. In a tilting match on her wedding day, her husband was killed;—her grief was so great, that she devoted. the remainder of her life to acts of beneficence. An antique silver cup, belonging to the foundress, is produced on particular occasions; this college has the honour of reckoning amongst its members, Gray, Mason, and the late William Pitt, who was also high steward of the university.

Corpus Christi, generally called Benet College, from being situated near to St. Benedict's church, which is appropriated to

the society, the origin of this college was, in 1350, from two societies, called Corpus Christi, and the Blessed Virgin united. The manuscripts in this library are the most celebrated in England for ecclesiastical affairs; but even a fellow of the college cannot enter it, unless accompanied by a another. In it are portraits of Edward the Third, of Mary, James, the lord keeper, Bacon, and other distinguished personages.

Trinity Hall, was formerly one of the hotels for the students. Richard Ling, Chancellor of the university, enlarged it; and, in the reign of Edward the Third, it was erected into a college, by William Bateman, bishop of Norwich.

Over the altar in Caius, or King's college, is a fine painting of the Annunciation; the chapel is small but beautiful. The college

was founded by Edward Gonvil, by a charter from Edward the Third; it was began building on the spot which is now the garden and tennis court of Benet's Gonvil died be fore it was completed, and left money to William Batemen, bishop of Norwich, to finish it, who erected it near Trinity Hall. Gonvil Hall was endowed for the maintenance of a master, four fellows, and two scholars. Dr. John Caius, in 1557, added a court to this college, and doubled its number of fellows; he also erected three gates; on the one which you enter the college from the north, and of the town, is this inscription:

The gate of humanity.

In the centre of this court, the gate has two inscriptions. On one side,

The gate of virtue;

on the other,

The gate of wisdom.

The third gate is next to the schools; on it is inscribed,

The gate of honour.

King's College was founded by Henry the Sixth, who endowed it with a provost, seventy fellows, chaplains, six clerks, sixteen choristers, and a music-master; also sixteen officers of the foundation, twelve servitors for the senior fellows, and six scholars. The under graduates of this college do not keep exercises in the schools, nor are they examined for their bachelor's degree. The chapel is a fine piece of gothic architecture; it was begun by Henry the Sixth, and finished by Henry the Seventh; the inside, painted windows, and

carving, was finished by Henry the Eighth. The length of this edifice is three thousand and sixteen feet; the breadth eighty four; and the height to the corner towers, one hundred and forty-six feet. The choir is paved with marble; a fine altar piece has been erected, and is adorned by a beautiful painting, presented by the present Earl of Carlisle. The chapel has two roofs, between which a person may walk upright; on the inside of the anti-chapel the walls are adorned with carved stone, representing the houses of York and Lancaster; in one of the rows is a small figure of the Virgin Mary; in this chapel are the colours taken from the island of Manilla, by Sir William Draper in 1762. There are twenty-six painted windows, extremely beautiful, the colours being uncommonly brilliant. It is

reported that these windows were all concealed during the time of Cromwell, for fear he should destroy them as relics of popery. On the north and south sides, in the library, are nine chapels, each of which, before the reformation, had its priest;—they are now used as burial places. Cora was so pleased with King's College, that she left it with great reluctance.

Lady Gordon proposed remaining at least a fortnight in Cambridge, as she wished her daughter to take time to view the curiosities of the University; and Cora kept a regular journal, which she had accustomed herself to do from her infancy; by which means she knew how to appreciate time, and not to squander it away uselessly. Clairville belonged to Queen's College, and, of course, he was

constantly of their party. At first Albert looked on him with no very favourable eye; but his generous heart was deeply penetrated with Clairville's candidly telling him, that he had seen women whom he thought more beautiful than Cora; but that her interesting manner was so captivating, that he loved her with the most ardent affection; but with his disposition, even if she would now condescend to honour him with her hand, he should be compelled to decline it; as the woman whom he married must love him, and him only, as he could never submit to share her heart; that he knew her sentiments; therefore, he trusted that Mandeville would do him justice, by extending to him his confidence and friendship; and that he would be a brother to his Cora during his absence.

On the fifth day, after their arrival in Cambridge, an express arrived for Albert to repair immediately to Portsmouth, as the transports were under sailing orders. Lady Gordon was much prepossessed in his favour, and the amiable Matilda mixed her tears with Cora, when she thought of the danger attending a military life The parting was extremely affecting, and it required all Clairville's abilities to restore any degree of cheerfulness to the party; he introduced several of his fellow collegiates, and they prosecuted their inspection of the University with a very large company. Of course, Clairville was desirous of shewing them Queen's College, and he had an elegant collation prepared for them in his apartments.

Margaret of Anjou, wife of Henry the VIth, founded Queen's College, and endowed it with a president and four fellows; it was built before the second war between the houses of York and Lancaster, when the Queen took refuge in Scotland, and the king was murdered. Elizabeth, wife of Edward the IVth, gave considerable donations to this college, and she is annually celebrated as a co-founder. The greatest beauty of this college is the grove and garden, which are connected by a bridge of one arch upon stone piers. Cora was much struck with the master's lodge of Catharine Hall; the spacious area, planted with elms, has a very grand appearance; the chapel of Catharine Hall, is an elegant structure; bishops Sherlock and Hoadly were both of this college; it

was founded by Robert Woodlark; Mrs. Mary Ramsden, of Norton, in Yorkshire, was also a great benefactress to Catharine Hall.

A convent of Benedictine Nuns falling into decay, Henry the VIIth dissolved it, and, by his license, John Alcock founded Jesus College on the ground where the nunnery stood;—it is surrounded by groves, gardens, and beautiful meadows; and adjoining to Jesus College is a grove of great extent; you enter it by a very magnificent gate. Lawrence Sterne, his grandfather, the archbishop of York, and bishop Cranmer, were all of this college. In the hall are the portraits of the two archbishops.

Christ's College was founded by lady Margaret, mother of Henry the VIIth; it

is a small elegant College. In the garden are alcoves, a bowling green, and an elegant summer house, behind which is a cold bath in a wilderness.

Margaret also left by will, lands in the county of Devonshire, Somersetshire, and Northamptonshire, to the value of four hundred pounds per annum, with the site of Dr. John's priory in Cambridge, and the revenue thereof, to her executors, for the building a college; in consequence of which endowment, John's College was erected, and it is generally supposed to be the most ancient foundation in the university; it has a very extensive library. Prior, the famous poet, presented St. John's with some valuable French Historical Books; a great curiosity is a leaden skull, which belonged to a skeleton, found in Newport Pagnel

Church. This College has had numerous benefactors, and has produced several eminent men. The library, the masters' apartment, the hall, and the combination room, are hung with fine portraits and paintings. Margaret's the foundress's picture, is in the dining room; it represents her kneeling. In the time of Cromwell this College suffered very severely; his party pillaged the College for several months, carried off all the communion plate and valuable medals, and converted the old court into a prison.

St. Mary Magdalen's College was founded by Edward Stafford, duke of Buckingham; but he fell on the scaffold before it was finished. Thomas, lord Audley, Lord Chancellor of England, obtained of Henry the VIIIth a grant of this College, at which time it was called Buckingham

College, as it had fallen to the crown by the attainder of the duke. The society is incorporated by the name of the Master and Fellows of St. Mary Magdalen's College; its original endowment was for a master and four fellows, which number has been augmented to sixteen. The mastership is in the gift of lord Audley's decendants.

Henry the VIIIth founded Trinity College;—report says, that when the king of Denmark honoured the university with his presence, being introduced into the library of Trinity College, and after viewing the court, his majesty concluded he had seen the whole of the university, and on passing the screens he was greatly struck with the magnificence of the sight. In the chapel is a very beautiful altar-piece by

West, and in the Anti-Chapel is a fine statue of Sir Isaac Newton. At the assizes the judges take up their residence in the master's lodge; it is also the residence of the sovereign, whenever he visits Cambridge; the apartments are very spacious and magnificent. In the hall are the portraits of Cowley, Dryden, Coke, Lords Bacon, Russel, &c. In the library, at the west end of the court, built by Dr. Nevil, formerly a master of Trinity College, are a collection of valuable books, placed in thirty spacious classes of oak; there is also a mummy, presented by the late Earl of Sandwich; a curious Chinese pagod; a lock of Sir Isaac Newton's hair, his globe, universal ring dial, quadrant, and compass; a quiver of arrows used by King Richard the IIId, against Henry the VIIth, at the battle of

Bosworth, with several other curiosities. At the end of the room is a beautiful painted glass window, representing his present Majesty seated on the throne - the two distinguished members of this college, Newton and Bacon, are presented to him by the genius of the place; Minerva is in the act of giving the laurel chaplet to Sir Isaac, who is explaining the sphere; this window was the gift of a late Master, Dr. Robert Smith, F. R. S. who bequeathed also a large collection of books to the library. In ascending the stairs is a portrait of Newton, under which is written:

"Nature and nature's laws, lay hid in night,"
God said, "Let Newton be, and all was light."

Prince William of Gloucester was of this college. For three succeeding days the

ladies contemplated the magnificence and beauty of this college; but they felt particularly gratified at visiting the cathedral in the evening; the solemnity of the scene was very imposing, the number of students, and the oratory being illuminated, rendered it one of the finest sights they had ever beheld.

Sir Walter Mildmay, of Chelmsford, in Essex, was the founder of Emanuel College, for one master, and three fellows, and four scholars: the hall is as handsome as any in the university; it is fitted up with carved work and wainscoting, the ceiling richly ornamented with fret-work. This college contains some excellent portraits, which are highly deserving of attention.

Cromwell was educated in Sidney, Sussex, which college was founded by

Lady Frances Radcliffe, dowager of the Earl of Sussex; but the original foundation has been more than doubled by various individuals; the hall contains a gallery for music, supported by pillars, and it has a fine vestibule at the entrance. In the library is a petrified human skull, which came from the island of Crete. Charles the First was so desirous of seeing this wonderful curiosity, that Doctor Harvey was commissioned by the master, to take it to London for his Majesty's gratification;—in the master's lodge are a few portraits.

The water in Cambridge is brought by an aqueduct, to a conduit which stands in the middle of the town; the whole of the expense was defrayed by Thomas Hobson, who was carrier between London and Cambridge. Hobson used to

let horses out to the students, but he would never allow them to chuse which animal they would ride, as he invariably let each beast take its turn of duty, from whence is the proverbial saying,

Hobson's choice—this or none.

Rosa said that she could no longer wonder that the English nation were proud of a country which could boast such a seat of learning; and every time she visited a college, she regretted that she had not first drawn her breath in this isle, renowned for its learning, its charity, and bravery. Lady Gordon had such a number of friends in Cambridgeshire, and Matilda's health was so much improved since she had left town, that for nearly four months they were constantly visiting round the country.

Clairville continued of their party, and Cora anticipated a wedding, as she evidently saw that he and Matilda were mutually pleased with each other. Lady Gordon had no objection to such an alliance, as in rank and fortune it was on both sides suitable.

The news of a victory at Badajos now was the common topic of conversation, and Cora was in a dreadful state of anxiety; her uncle, she knew, was not there; but she had reason to think that the 48th regiment was in one of the divisions on that service. For some time her anxiety was so great, that she intreated Lady Gordon to make some excuse for her not appearing in public; and that lady commiserated her state of suspense, and acceded to her wishes: but the Gazette too soon con-

vinced her of the misery which awaited her. Albert had performed wonders of valour before Badajos, and after, as was supposed, he had accomplished the part allotted for him to perform, and that he would be crowned with laurels, he was shot, and so desperately wounded, that not the smallest hopes were entertained of his recovery. This information was communicated to Cora in a little note from Clairville, who, in the most affectionate and delicate manner, represented that little dependence could be placed on the report; therefore, to relieve her anxiety, he would instantly go to town, and endeavour to ascertain the truth. Alas! his enquiries only augmented her grief, as at the War office he learnt that Mandeville was

mortally wounded, and that he had lost his left hand; that he was lamented by every one, as his humanity kept pace with his bravery; and, if he survived, he would immediately have his company. Cora heard this account with a calmness which astonished her friends—she never shed a tear; but her pale countenance proved that she very sincerely felt for the fate of Mandeville. She endeavoured to overcome her affliction by exertion; and never permitted herself a moment to be unemployed. Her friends looked at her with wonder and admiration; but they apprehended a decline; for although she never complained, her constant cough alarmed them. Lady Gordon, in hopes that a change of scene might dissipate Cora's

ideas, now proposed going to Oxford, to which she readily assented, and, with Clairville still of their party, they departed from Cambridge.

END OF VOL I.

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